

uninsured
injury
trial

Vargas Iloa
receives Spain
Cervantes Prize

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Israelis arrest 40 in South Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) — The Israeli army has arrested about 40 people in a sweep in South Lebanon a day after a suicide car bombing wounded 11 soldiers, Lebanese security services said Wednesday. The wave of arrests began late Tuesday in Bint Jbeil only hours after the attack on an Israeli military convoy in the town inside Israel's self-declared "security zone." Bint Jbeil and the neighbouring village of 'Ainata were sealed while Israeli soldiers searched several houses looking for a young woman who supposedly accompanied the suicide bomber, security services added. She allegedly jumped from the car packed with explosives at the last minute just as the driver rammed into the convoy as it entered a military building in the town. Hizbollah said the car was packed with 400 kilograms (see page 12). Those arrested were taken to the Israeli military administration buildings in Bint Jbeil for questioning.

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Israel gives first sign of W. Bank redeployment

Negotiators say July 1 deadline will be met

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army is to close three training camps on the West Bank, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced Wednesday, in the first sign of an impending Israeli redeployment for Palestinian self-rule. In Cairo, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators said they expected to reach an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule into the rest of the West Bank by a July 1 deadline. The hopeful statements follow months of spurring talks between the PLO and Israel on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections. Military sources said equipment would be moved gradually from bases across the West Bank where it was no longer needed. "The bases will not be dismantled but will house other security units," Mr. Rabin announced on Tuesday. He had discussed in cabinet the financing of the transfer back to Israel of the main West Bank training facilities near Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah, the radio reported. The facilities concerned are "base number three" at Nablus, "number four" by

the settlement of Beit Al outside Ramallah and Aduraim south of Hebron, it said. The radio had first reported that the bases would be evacuated, but Mr. Rabin spoke only of an end to training there. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urged Israel to go further. "This is a step that must be followed by other steps and by the withdrawal from all the areas in line with the (autonomy) agreement," Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said. But the move was still seen as a first sign that the long-delayed redeployment was to begin as under the autonomy agreement. "I think it's very important because we have indicated we are serious about our intentions," government spokesman Uri Dromi said. "We are not just fooling around and trying to buy time." "This is a serious signal, not that we are moving tomorrow morning but that we are taking things seriously as we did in Gaza." In Gaza, as in the West Bank enclave of Jericho, the army gradually removed equipment and troops in the months before self-rule began in May, 1994. Right-wing opposition Likud Party leader Benjamin

Netanyahu accused the government of already starting a pullout. "The government is playing with public opinion and deceiving us," he said. "The government told us the same lies when in fact the army was pulling out of Gaza." The 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy calls for an Israeli military redeployment outside built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank to allow Palestinian elections to go ahead. Under the declaration, redeployment was to have taken place on the West Bank before last July, but Israel has repeatedly stalled demanding that the Palestinian National Authority make a greater effort to halt militant attacks. "We are telling the Palestinians, give us the time and you will see," Mr. Dromi said. "It takes a lot of meticulous planning." "But if you deliver your part of the deal in terms of security then we will deliver and it can be quicker than people think."

He said it was normal to close training facilities first. "Training bases take more time to move, army units can operate in any kind of situation," he said.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor at the tomb of Queen Zein, the Queen Mother on Wednesday recite verses of the Koran at (Petra photo)

Queen Mother remembered

AMMAN (Petra) — On the first anniversary of the death of Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Wednesday visited the Queen Mother's tomb and recited verses of the Holy Koran. The tomb was also visited by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince and the Jubilee School visited Queen Zein's tomb. and other members of the Royal Family, who laid wreaths on the tomb. Also Wednesday, representatives of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), the National Population Commission, the National Commission on Women's Affairs and children from Um Al Hussein Orphanage and the Jubilee School visited Queen Zein's tomb.

Crown Prince says northern badia should get better services

AMMAN (Petra) — Residents of the northern badia regions and those close to Rweish on Wednesday appealed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for better services in their regions. Meeting with the Crown Prince, who was on a day-long tour of the northern badia, Parliament members of the badia districts and notables requested the Crown Prince to help protect their livestock wealth, drill artesian wells for drinking water and protect their pastures. Some of the notables complained that television broadcasts does not reach their region.

Describing the badia area as a potential source of natural wealth, the Crown Prince said that efforts should be made for its development. The badia areas complement the mountainous and other agricultural regions and its pastures must be protected by all means because they contribute to the livestock wealth of Jordan, said the Crown Prince, who was accompanied on the tour by Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Snour and local officials and the commander of the border police units. The Crown Prince said everything possible should be done to protect the vital in-

terest of the citizens without discrimination. It is the duty of every citizen to cooperate with the concerned authorities to protect the nation's gains and achievements, he said. He said Jordan radio and television broadcasts should reach the badia region as its citizens benefit a great deal from their programmes. District Governor Qafan Majali briefed the Crown Prince on the situation and problems in the badia. The Crown Prince passed instructions to concerned departments to examine these issues and find appropriate solutions for them.

Symposium advances development efforts

U.S. businessmen got clear idea of commitment — TDA

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — American, Israeli and Jordanian government officials and business executives on Wednesday ended a key symposium, which organisers said, significantly advanced the objective of crystallising the approach to developing the Jordan Rift Valley that the Kingdom shares with Israel. As soon as the three-day symposium was over, Jordanian, Israeli and American officials started discussions on what Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Ammari described as "fast-track" projects in the valley. The discussions were aimed at shortlisting some of the ventures that could be implemented in a relatively shorter span when compared with some of the megaprojects that involve billions of dollars and eight to 10 years to complete. Dr. Ammari also announced that allocations were already made for \$5 million to conduct the second phase of feasibility studies of Jordan Rift Valley development projects. The first phase was conducted by the World Bank. The Amman symposium brought together key planning officials and strategists from the governments of Jordan, Israel and the United States and senior business executives from the three countries. But American participation in the event was the heaviest, with about 50 com-

panies, most of them multinationals with annual turnovers of billions of dollars. If there were no announcements of concrete projects at the end of the symposium, it was simply because it was not the purpose of the gathering, said J. Grandmaison, director of the Trade and Development Agency (TDA), a U.S. government organisation which sponsored the event. "A byproduct of this conference, however, is a heavy-duty reality," said Mr. Grandmaison, addressing a press conference. "The most instructive session (other sessions having dealt with highly technical details of projects) was the final session, having to do with financing. The message that was clear from the private sector was that if they are expected to be involved in the financing, the economic viability of the projects was the key." That is where organisations like TDA come in, said Mr. Grandmaison. He noted that his organisation was involved in helping commercial organisations carry out studies with a clear eye on meeting the concerns and interests of the regional parties. However, he said, it was solely up to the governments of Jordan and Israel to identify priority projects and up to the private sector to decide whether to "jump in and participate."

"What we brought with us was 50 companies which, we believe, are progressive (and)

Couple in court in Israeli embassy bombing

LONDON (AFP) — A woman and man charged in connection with the bombings of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish centre in London last year appeared in court and were remanded in custody, court officials said. Nadia Zakra, 48, and Jawed Mahmoud Botmeh, 27, both with London addresses, are accused of conspiring to cause explosions. Wednesday's committal hearing found there was sufficient evidence against them to warrant a trial, and they will return to court in four to six weeks to answer the charges, the officials said. If they plead not guilty, a trial date will be set at that time. The two are charged in connection with bombs that heavily damaged the Israeli embassy last July 26, and a Jewish charity centre building the following day. A second woman, identified as Samar Alami, 29, of London, was in custody awaiting a court appearance May 10 on a related charge, officials.

University students stage 'national unity rally'

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan officials as well as students of Salt and Circassian origin on Wednesday participated in a "national unity rally" and delivered addresses in which they called for safeguarding national unity and unifying ranks. The rally, held one day after the conclusion of investigations by the university administration into April 5 clashes on campus in which dozens of students were injured, included addresses by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharabeh, several professors and two students representing the two feuding parties. Dr. Gharabeh underlined the need to protect national unity and urged the students to be an example in their unity and integration. The rally, he said, embodies an expression of the stu-

dents' readiness to contribute to the country's development. He underlined the importance of the youth in protecting the Kingdom and all its achievements and said the progress of nations is measured by the education and knowledge of their youth. Professor Na'el Awamleh of the faculty of economics and administrative sciences said: "National unity is a commitment and behaviour emanating from the sense of true belonging to the homeland." Professor Abdullah Al Kilani of the Faculty of Islamic Sharia reviewed historical events depicting the unity of Muslims of various origins and backgrounds. Another address was delivered by Professor Moham-

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, PNA sign agreement on culture

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday signed an executive programme for cooperation in cultural fields. The programme, signed by Culture Minister Samir Habashneh and Palestinian Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, comes in implementation of a cultural cooperation and coordination agreement signed between the two sides on Jan. 26, 1995. The programme provides for exchanging literary and intellectual works and historical documents and entails joint action in cultural fields. It also calls for exchanging lecturers, expertise and information as well as visits by those working in cultural organisations and institutions. It also calls for enhancing cooperation between Jordanian and Palestinian writers and artists and exchanging book exhibitions. In addition it calls on the two sides to exchange visits

by art and theatre groups and to cooperate in developing cultural laws and regulations and protecting copyrights and intellectual properties. Mr. Habashneh and Mr. Abed Rabbo also signed plans of action to execute the programme in 1995 which entails holding four seminars on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, cultural and socio-economic relations and active laws in the two countries among many other activities to be hosted by Palestinian and Jordanian cities. The first of these seminars will be held in the Palestinian city of Ramallah in July with the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian ministers of culture. Jordanian and Palestinian poets and writers will participate in cultural events to be held in Jenin, Tulkarem, Hebron and Gaza in the second half of June. The Jordanian Ministry of Culture will also participate

(Continued on page 7)

EU team leaves after inviting Jordan to Spain

Syrian and Lebanese role seen unlikely in Barcelona

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A European Union delegation left Amman for Israel and Gaza Wednesday after officially inviting Jordan to the Mediterranean conference that the EU will organise in Barcelona in November and consulting with the Jordanian officials on the objectives of the conference. Head of the delegation Bernard Frague of France described as positive the outcome of his talks here adding that further talks on the conference and its objectives will be held with Jordanian officials later this year. The European officials said the delegation, which included German and Spanish as well as EU delegates, will report to the EU summit in Cannes on the outcome of

PNA says Israelis tortured suspect to death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) charged on Wednesday that Israeli agents tortured to death a suspect under interrogation. Abdul Samad Harizat, a suspected Hamas member, died Tuesday from head injuries after three days of questioning by agents of the Shin Beth, Israel's internal security service. "We hold the Israeli authorities responsible for the martyrdom of Abdul Samad Harizat," the Palestinian Information Ministry said in a statement. "We ask them to set up a legal framework to monitor torturing of detainees under

Second Oklahoma bomb suspect may be dead

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies) — Federal agents are investigating whether the second suspect in the deadly Oklahoma City blast was killed when the two-tonne bomb went off, an official source said on Wednesday. "It's an active theory," a law enforcement source told Reuters. "That is one reason why they are so closely examining pictures from the area — he may have got caught by the explosion." The official death count rose early Wednesday to 94, including 14 children. An estimated 135 people are still missing. The source said it is routine in bombings to see whether the bomber was killed in a blast, but said in this case, "unidentifiable body parts and heavy damage all around the area has made it more difficult to be certain." Only one person — Timothy McVeigh — has been directly charged in the blast, which exploded last Wednesday, almost demolishing a nine-floor federal building.

A surveillance camera's tape — damaged by last Wednesday's blast — is being scrutinised because it may show the truck that carried the bomb and the suspects. The source said publicity about a second suspect has been so intense it would be very difficult for the man to move around in public. Federal authorities issued a new sketch of the dark-haired, tattooed man on Tuesday, this time showing him in a baseball cap. "Either he doesn't know anybody or he's dead, is what some of the guys are speculating," said the source. McVeigh, 27, was being held in a maximum security prison on the outskirts of Oklahoma City. Several media reports on Wednesday said investigators found traces of ammonium nitrate, an ingredient of fertilizer, on McVeigh's clothing and in his car. Experts believe the bomb was made primarily of fertilizer and fuel oil. McVeigh was listed on Tuesday as a co-conspirator

in federal charges filed in Michigan against farming brothers James and Terry Nichols. The charges were not linked to the Oklahoma bomb. James Nichols, 41, and Terry Nichols, 40, are reported to have ties to the Michigan Militia, a paramilitary group which is part of a pro-gun, anti-government movement operating in several states. A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) affidavit released with the charges, alleged that McVeigh and the Nichols brothers experimented with making bombs. It said James Nichols held extreme, right-wing views and despised the U.S. government. CNN reported that McVeigh, a former soldier, was refusing to speak to authorities, claiming he was a political prisoner. It said McVeigh would give only his name, rank and army serial number — the information a prisoner of war gives his cap-

(Continued on page 7)

Under The Patronage of Her Majesty
Queen Noor Al-Hussein
The Bani Hamida
Spring Exhibition Presents
Doors Of Opportunity

Sponsored by: AFICO Producers of top quality edible oils "Murjan"

Location: Jordanian Construction Contractors Association Building.

Duration: April 27 thru May 6 (10am - 9pm).

Bani Hamida House P.O. Box 2179 Amman Tel: 658696 Fax: 612169

Satellite tracks migrating falcons

X-REFS *****

Home News

Interpol in hunt for separatists

Yemeni authorities are to enlist the aid of Interpol in hunting for separatist leaders. The Yemeni government has requested the help of the international police force to track down and arrest the leaders of the Southern Movement, a separatist group that has been active in the south of the country since the end of the civil war in 1994. The group's leader is Ali Salim al-Hadi, who is wanted by the Yemeni government for his role in the conflict. The Yemeni government has also requested the help of the United Nations in its efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Deal to ship gas via Suez

Yemeni and Jordanian officials have agreed to ship gas from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. The deal, which was announced yesterday, is a significant step towards increasing regional energy security. The gas will be shipped from the Yemeni coast to the Suez Canal, where it will be loaded onto tankers for transport to the Mediterranean. The deal is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks.

Ring in death penalty for drug

Yemeni authorities have announced that they will be imposing the death penalty on drug traffickers. The new law, which was passed by the Yemeni parliament, states that anyone caught trafficking drugs will be executed. The law is a significant step towards cracking down on the drug trade in the country. The Yemeni government has also announced that it will be increasing its efforts to combat drug trafficking, including by conducting more raids on drug dealers and by increasing the number of police officers dedicated to the task.

Deal in Pakistan deal to sell ether

Yemeni and Pakistani officials have agreed to a deal to sell ether. The deal, which was announced yesterday, is a significant step towards increasing regional energy security. The ether will be shipped from the Pakistani coast to the Yemeni coast, where it will be loaded onto tankers for transport to the Mediterranean. The deal is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks.

Not wanted for closure of press

Yemeni authorities have announced that they will not be closing the press. The announcement, which was made yesterday, is a significant step towards increasing regional press freedom. The Yemeni government has also announced that it will be increasing its efforts to protect the press, including by conducting more raids on press offices and by increasing the number of police officers dedicated to the task.

Market price

Yemeni authorities have announced that they will be increasing the market price of certain goods. The new prices, which were announced yesterday, are a significant step towards increasing regional economic stability. The Yemeni government has also announced that it will be increasing its efforts to stabilize the market, including by conducting more raids on market stalls and by increasing the number of police officers dedicated to the task.



Children from the Um Al Hussein Orphanage, Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, on Wednesday pray over the tomb of the late King Hussein (Petra photo)

Physical medicine conference focuses on achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry is currently implementing programmes in physical medicine and rehabilitation at its hospitals and is continuing to train doctors in this field of specialisation, Health Minister Aref Batayneh said Wednesday. Addressing the opening session of a three-day medical conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), Dr. Batayneh said the Health Ministry is supporting Jordanian voluntary associations by providing them with specialists in physical medicine to work at their centres. The conference, entitled "The First Arab and Jordanian Conference on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation," was formally opened by former Health Minister Zuhair Malhas who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. This conference represents one more important step towards advancing the medical services which have been continually improving under the reign of His Majesty King Hussein over the past four decades, said Dr. Malhas in his address to the 200 specialists and physicians from Arab and foreign countries. Referring to the primary health care services which have been spearheaded by the Health Ministry, Dr. Malhas said that these services have led to the decline of the infant mortality rates to 36 for every 1000 births and a rise to 68 the average life expectancy in Jordan. He said the achievement was realised through the immunisation programmes which cover more than 95 per cent of children and the availability of potable water and of electricity in almost all parts of Jordan. In step with this development, Dr. Malhas added, the country has witnessed a con-

Expansion on Karak hospital complete, says official

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Work on the expansion of the Italian Hospital in Karak has been completed, and the official opening of the annex will take place next Thursday at a ceremony to be attended by Health Minister Aref Batayneh and Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, hospital director Fawaz Awabdeh announced Wednesday. The expansion, which took two and a half years to complete, was carried out by the National Italian Society for Voluntary Aid (AMSMD), which financed the project, Dr. Awabdeh told the Jordan Times.

The expansion resulted in raising the number of beds from 30 to 45, increasing the number of operation theatres from one to three, and enlarging the maternity wards to almost twice their former capacity, said Dr. Awabdeh. The Italian society, which had built the original hospital in 1935, also provided the health care facility with new medical equipment and financed the employment of additional medical teams of doctors and nurses, raising the number of all workers to 79, added the hospital director. Furthermore, he said, the hospital has now contracted specialists in various medical fields to provide additional care to patients. Noting that the Italian Hospital in Karak was the first hospital to be built in southern Jordan, Dr. Awabdeh said that the expansion was necessitated by the growing public demand for health services. Asked about the new Italian-financed hospital under construction, Dr. Awabdeh said that it was nearly complete, and he expected the official opening to take place by mid-June. The first phase of the JD 13 million project will make available 100 beds. Later the hospital could be expanded to accommodate 200 beds, according to Health Ministry officials. The infrastructure work of the new hospital, which cost JD 1 million, was provided by the Jordanian government in accordance with an agreement with the Italian government which is financing the construction and the equipment of the hospital.

Deputies clash over presence of foreign film crew in meeting

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A row between Lower House of Parliament deputies Toujan Faisal and Abdul Karim Dughmi erupted on Wednesday and developed into a war of words over the presence of a television crew at an unofficial meeting of the House Judiciary Committee. While Mr. Dughmi considered the row to have come to an end at the moment it happened, Ms. Faisal believed it had serious implications and was the result of a personal grudge. The row started when Deputy Dughmi called on Parliament secretary to take a Swedish television crew, that was accompanying Ms. Faisal, out of the hall in which the judiciary committee was supposed to hold its meeting. Ms. Faisal said she had permission from the Parliament's administration to bring the television crew into all her meetings at the House that day. When Mr. Dughmi called for their expulsion, she told the crew to videotape her alone. According to Ms. Faisal, Mr. Dughmi told her to shut up and threatened her with an ashtray. "I refused to deal with him any more, I left," Ms. Faisal said. "He was simply trying to avenge a previous clash."

Ms. Faisal was referring to a row between herself and Mr. Dughmi over her speech during the vote of confidence session in early January. She said Mr. Dughmi attacked her in an article he wrote in Shihab Arabic weekly on the basis that her speech was unconstitutional. "I exposed him in a later article in the same newspaper by quoting part of his speech during the vote of confidence session for Abdul Salam Majali's government," she claimed the row was one mean of hitting back at her. "It is a personal grudge," she said. Mr. Dughmi, who said he would not want to "make a big issue out of a mild row," said he ordered the crew out of his capacity as head of the committee. He said he was not informed that they would attend the meeting. "It is a very normal row that happens between two colleagues," Mr. Dughmi said. "It is over."

Deputy Hammam Sa'ed, one of only four members present at Wednesday's meeting, said the committee did not hold its meeting anyway because there was no quorum. The Lower House of Parliament is in recess, and all of the committee meetings are voluntary, and any agreements reached are non-binding. Ms. Faisal said she hosted the crew in another office.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates S. Africa

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to South African President Nelson Mandela congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Mandela good health and happiness and the South African people further progress and prosperity.

Japan grants \$9.6m for medical equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan will extend a \$9.6 million grant to Jordan for the improvement of medical equipment to be installed at various local public hospitals in Jordan, in accordance with an agreement signed Wednesday by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuki Ikeda, an embassy statement said.



Jordanian pilgrims Wednesday attend a ceremony before their departure to Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj (Petra photo)

Awqaf minister addresses pilgrims before their departure for the Haj

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Wednesday bade farewell to Jordanian pilgrims as they set off for Saudi Arabia to perform this year's Haj in Mecca and Medina. Addressing a ceremony held for the occasion at Marj Al Hamam, where the pilgrims started the overland trip to Saudi Arabia, the minister said that the government, acting under directives from His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, was providing the medical care and other services to the pilgrims on the way to the Muslim holy sites. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs was organising these services in cooperation with the interior, health and information ministries, as well as with the public security and civil defence departments. The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation of the Saudi embassy's efforts to facilitate the pilgrims' trip. Representatives of the Saudi embassy were present at the ceremony. Meanwhile the Ministry of Health Wednesday sent off its medical mission which will accompany the pilgrims. Health Minister Aref Batayneh, who saw off the medical team, said that its members who are provided with medical supplies and equipment would offer services not only to Jordanians but those of other nationalities in case of need.

Bani Hamida women's weaving project celebrates decade through 'Doors of Opportunity'

By Jennifer Hamarneh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ten years ago Save the Children Federation, in cooperation with Her Majesty Queen Noor, began a project that, according to those involved, has had a "profound impact" on the lives of the women of the Bani Hamida tribe. Started as a project "to promote and revive handicrafts in Jordan, while providing opportunities for families to increase their incomes," the project has allowed these women, living in 13 villages scattered across the top of Jebel Bani Hamida overlooking the Dead Sea, to improve their marriage options, help their brothers in education and marriage, improve their homes by adding kitchens, plastering living rooms and adding on new rooms, help their menfolk put more food on the table, and help their children, particularly their daughters, continue going to school. Many of these women have even begun to drive — a first for their community. According to Project Manager Shawarib, the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project looks back over the last decade and sees that, above all, it has "empowered an entire community to solve its problems and those of its children on a household level." Ms. Shawarib cited as an example, the case of Halima Qa'aydah. Ms. Qa'aydah began working on the Bani Hamida Project as a teenager, having learned the art of rug weaving from her grandmother. Her decision-making skills were recognised and encouraged, and today, Ms. Qa'aydah, now married with two children, is the production supervisor. With her income she was able to help her husband build their own home in Lib village, said Ms. Shawarib. At present, 1,275 recently settled bedouin women in 478 families are involved in the project. Their suggestions on designs and production are implemented in consultation with the project managers in Amman. The women practise their craft, passed down from mother to daughter for centuries. Rug weaving, however, was nearly a dying craft until the project stepped in to help revive it. As spinners, dyers, loomsetters, and weavers, they produce hand-made rugs, cushions and wall hangings of 100 per cent wool from the sheep of Bani Hamida mountain and other bedouin tribes of Jordan. Rebecca Salti, who, as former director of Save the Children in Jordan for 10 years, helped start up and coordinate the Bani Hamida project, looks at the achievements of its women with deep respect. "The Bani Hamida women have flown on these carpets to goals they never dreamed they could attain. Salma's daughter went from Mukawir to Finland last year for a trade show. Hamda, a loomsetter in Zahra, earned a great deal of unexpected money the four years before she passed away. And Humaida built two rooms for her family's 50 goats last summer. Aishah built a tiny kitchen, and Subhiya bought her home. For them, a Bani Hamida rug is a flying carpet," said Ms. Salti, who set up the Save the Children's Programme in Jordan. Since June 1990 the project has been self-sustaining through the income generated from sales and some donations received to help with export marketing which is currently 23 per cent of its production. Since the project's inception in September 1985, most of the women living on Bani Hamida Mountain have participated. As of April this year, they have received a total of JD 726,705 in wages. In celebrating its tenth year, the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project today opens its largest-ever annual spring exhibition entitled, "Doors of Opportunity." Queen Noor is expected to inaugurate the 10-day exhibition of local art displayed against the dramatic background of the art work of the Bani Hamida women. While Production Manager Salwa Sukhum and Production Manager for the Export Department Dina Shafaq supervised the rug production for the spring exhibition, a few of the 16 young girls from Bani Hamida who make up the managerial team opted not to go home for a few nights, but rather sleep at the weavers' homes to make certain that the rugs for the exhibition were produced to specifications and on time, Ms. Shawarib said. Included for the first time in the "Door of Opportunity" display is a new collection of rugs made utilising natural vegetable dyes. Participating in introducing their recent works alongside their "sisters in art" from the villages south of Madaba and Mount Nebo are: Their Royal Highnesses Princess Widad Ali and Princess Rajwa Bint Ali, Sharifa Hind Nasser, Adnan Al Ali, Ali Maher, Andrea Atalla, Bilal Hammad, Dodi Tabbaa, Dzehva Khatib, Fo'ad Mimi, Khalid Khreis, Lester Haven, Luma Khalaf, Mai Bdour, Riham Ghasib, Rula Atalla, Salim Bandak, Samar Mohamad, Samia Zaru, Suha Lailas and Zaki Aslan. The exhibition will run through May 6 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Jordanian Contractors Association Building.



Bani Hamida women and their children near a loom

WHAT'S GOING ON

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| FILM <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Film entitled "Beyond The Stars" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.★ Film entitled "Todos a la Carcel" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. | LECTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Lecture by novelist Rashid Abu Shawir entitled "My Experience in Literature" at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. | EXHIBITION <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Exhibition of contemporary calligraphy at the National Museum of Fine Arts.★ Annual Spring exhibition: "Doors of Opportunity" by the Bani Hamida at the Jordanian Contractors Association Building, Abdoun (Tel. 658696).★ Exhibition of paintings by Lebanese artist Karim Al Hage at the Royal Cultural Centre.★ Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.★ Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alfa Art Gallery.★ Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).★ Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artist Sa'ad Haddadin at Orfal Art Gallery.★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre. |
| JEWELLERY DISPLAY <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at Darat Al Funun. | | |

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مارنوف

U.N. fears deadly receptions for homeward-bound Rwanda refugees

BUTARE, Rwanda (AP) — Almost a year after they first fled their homes, about 200,000 refugees were on the march again in Rwanda. Many headed back to villages where U.N. officials fear they might be killed by survivors of one of the world's most brutal genocides.

The U.N.'s refugee agency said at least nine returnees already had been killed in their home villages and more than 1,000 imprisoned in a bank building in Ngenda, a town 25 miles south of the capital, Kigali.

In Nsuga, a quiet hillside farming community 10 miles from Butare, 10 returnees were promptly jailed on charges they bludgeoned their neighbours to death last year.

The refugees were Hutus, members of the ethnic majority blamed for last year's slaughter of a half-million men, women and children. Most of the victims were Tutsis shot, hacked and clubbed to death by Hutu militias and, in a frightening number of cases, former friends and neighbours.

In Butare, southwest of the capital, townspeople came out of their homes Tuesday

to slap, stone and spit at a column of hundreds of refugees beginning a journey on foot to their distant homes. U.N. officials fear their homecoming reception would be far more hostile.

"The government is conscious of the fact that there is going to be a huge problem in terms of food and water," U.N. special envoy Shabaryar Khan told reporters in Kigali. "There is also the question of hostility."

The refugees were moving throughout this central African nation on buses, trucks or foot after the Tutsi-led army closed with deadly force several camps in the country's southwest.

Most came from Kibeho camp, which housed 120,000 displaced people until Saturday, when at least 2,000 were shot to death by government troops or crushed in resulting stampedes.

At least 60,000 first fled in terror to Butare. 32 kilometres from the camp, where many were persuaded to move on to their homes by U.N. officials and government soldiers.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali has been trying for months to get

more than 2 million refugees inside Rwanda and in neighbouring countries to return home.

It was continuing that effort in Butare and elsewhere Tuesday, sometimes harshly.

Aid workers and others said many refugees were being abused by civilians and soldiers alike.

Lt. Kent Page, the U.N. military spokesman in Kigali, said he had personally seen refugees whipped and stoned by civilians and soldiers.

"I saw it myself," he said. "They are more than just minor incidents."

A standoff continued Tuesday between soldiers and about 600 men, women and children who were refusing to vacate a school building at the otherwise abandoned camp at Kibeho.

Some holdouts were said by U.N. officials to be Hutus armed with rifles and grenades who were using others as human shields.

By nightfall Tuesday, the army had set four deadlines for the holdouts to leave the building peacefully or be forced out, but let each pass without taking action.

The killings at the Kibeho

camp, and continuing difficulties settling the refugees, seemed sure to set back efforts to reconcile Hutus and Tutsis hardened by their years of enmity and threatened to sharply reduce international funding for Rwanda.

The international community expressed almost unanimous outrage at the latest massacre. The Netherlands said it was eliminating its aid and the European Union said it would review its policies toward Rwanda.

Aid workers and witnesses said the weekend slaughter was unprovoked. The government claims soldiers were protecting themselves against Hutu militiamen.

Some survivors said the United Nations should have done more to stop the violence, which occurred within sight of 200 U.N. peacekeepers.

A report Monday by Human Rights Watch-Africa backed up those accusations, saying that although the peacekeepers were outnumbered by Rwandan soldiers, they should have anticipated trouble and called for reinforcements.



A Rwandan soldier stands at the site of the Kibeho refugee camp, southern Rwanda, where thousands of Hutus were killed by Rwandan soldiers (AFP photo)

N. Korea conditionally accepts high-level nuclear talks with U.S.

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea has conditionally accepted a U.S. proposal to reopen high-level talks on stopping the Communist country from reviving its suspect nuclear programme, south Korean officials said Tuesday.

The talks could resume in May, South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung said.

In a letter to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci Monday, Kang Sok Ju, the North's deputy foreign minister, said his government would reopen the talks if Washington agreed to supply U.S.-made nuclear

reactors, Mr. Gong said. However, in Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said North Korea's note did not say whether the North Koreans were willing to resume the talks. He said North Korea asked for more details on the U.S. position.

The latest round of experts' talks between the United States and North Korea broke down in Berlin last week because the North continued to refuse to accept two replacement reactors, promised in an agreement last October, from rival South Korea.

To break the deadlock, the

United States proposed that the talks be moved to Geneva and upgraded to a higher level. Mr. Kang's letter was the North's first response to the U.S. proposal.

"I think North Korea has the will to resolve problems through dialogue and I hope so," Mr. Gong told reporters. "North Korea appears to be aware of the seriousness of the problems facing it."

Despite the North Korean condition, Mr. Gong said he was optimistic that the talks would reopen in May. In new talks, all issues, including who would supply the reactors, could be discussed, he added.

Argentine army regrets its 'dirty war' in 1970s

BUENOS AIRES (R) — After two decades of depicting itself as Argentina's saviour, the army has formally admitted it was wrong in kidnapping and killing thousands of suspected guerrillas in the 1970s "dirty war."

"I have pondered these words at great length," army chief General Martin Balza told the nation in a televised speech late Tuesday. "I assume our part of responsibility in the mistakes."

"We must no longer deny the horror we lived through," he said, reading from a prepared text. "I can only

offer... the firm commitment that we shall not repeat the mistakes of the past."

His admission, the army's first such open acceptance of responsibility, was the result of grisly reminders by two former military men of the way in which thousands of missing people met their deaths: Dumped from aircraft into the sea, drugged and dazed but often still alive.

Faced with plain evidence of torture and murder, the armed forces had long admitted to "excesses" in their fight against suspected re-

bels. But until now they had never described their entire campaign as unlawful and wrong in such frank language.

Gen. Balza's statements are bound to cause tension within the army itself and with other services, clashing as they do with two decades of military insistence that bold, brave action was needed to stamp out an insurgency that threatened to take over Argentina in the 1970s.

Only last month the navy haughtily shrugged off the disclosures of a commander

who confirmed the existence of the "death flights" denounced by survivors of military concentration camps. It counter-attacked by cashing him on charges of car theft and forgery.

Gen. Balza, however, faced with identical testimony this week from a former army sergeant, repeatedly used the words "error" and "mistake" to describe the military's 1976 decision to shun the law in its fight against opponents and suspected guerrillas.

"The end never justifies the means," said Gen. Balza.

Hollywood actress Ginger Rogers dies at 83

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ginger Rogers, the glamorous blonde who danced her way to stardom on the arm of legendary entertainer Fred Astaire during Hollywood's golden years, died Tuesday at her home. She was 83 years old.

Rogers, who was left virtually wheelchair-bound by a stroke in the mid-1980s, died in her sleep from natural causes in the affluent celebrity enclave of Rancho Mirage, the coroner's office said.

Her name will be forever linked to Astaire's. The two starred together in a string of 10 musical comedies in the 1930s and 1940s, moving across dance floors with effortless grace, she usually in an elegant gown, he in a tuxedo.

But even as they won acclaim as Hollywood's most famous dance duo, Rogers managed to build a vibrant acting career on her own, beating out Katharine Hepburn in 1940 to win a Best Actress Academy Award for her role in Kitty Foyle.

In a career spanning more than five decades, Rogers appeared in 73 movies. She married and divorced five times.

Song-and-dance man Gene Kelly paid tribute to Rogers, saying she "made a great

contribution to movie dance that we should never forget."

Another of her contemporaries, actor Mickey Rooney, said: "I am certain that somewhere in heaven Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are doing 'just the way you look tonight,'" one of their famous dance numbers.

Rogers broke into show business after winning a Charleston dance contest. She went on to shine equally in comedies and dramas and in 1945 became Hollywood's highest-paid performer.

She and Astaire, who had a brief off-screen romance, kicked boredom from the silver screen with graceful and fluid dance numbers in such dance classics as Flying Down to Rio, The Gay Divorcee, Roberta and Top Hat.

Movie fans seeking escape from the grim realities of the great depression and World War II packed the theatres to watch them dance to the sound of big bands.

Rogers was born in Virginia Katherine McMath on July 16, 1911, in Independence, Missouri, and took her last name from a stepfather. After a divorce, her mother, Lela, headed to Hollywood where she wrote scripts and turned down an offer to put

six-year-old Ginger in films.



File picture dated Aug. 10, 1938 of U.S. actress Ginger Rogers. The actress died Tuesday. She was 83 (AFP photo)

saying she was too young.

Rogers' stage debut came in Fort Worth, Texas. At age 14 she appeared in local plays and shows. After winning a Charleston contest, Rogers toured in Vaudeville teams.

In 1928, she paired for a song and dance act with Jack Culpepper, the first of her five husbands.

While singing with Paul Ash's orchestra in New York, she began appearing in short movies. She landed her first leading Broadway role in 1929 in Top Speed.

Paramount Pictures took notice. Filming at the studio's east coast facilities in New York, Rogers in 1930 appeared in Young Man of Manhattan. The Sap From Syracuse, Queen High, Follow The Leader, and in 1931 Honor Among Lovers.

She was generally cast as a wisecracking blond flapper. One of her lines from Young Man of Manhattan — "cigarette me, big boy" — became a national catchphrase.

Her roles expanded when in 1931 she moved to Hollywood, working for a variety of studios before winding up at RKO. By 1933, when she first appeared with the dapper Astaire in Flying Down to Rio, Rogers had appeared in 20 feature films.

Fans thrilled at the

seemingly effortless perfection of their dances, the glides, leaps and turns performed as smoothly as if on ice. Rogers recalled it as a time of dancing "to the farthest shores of weariness," dancing until her feet bled.

"I loved Fred So, and I mean that in the nicest, warmest way: I had such affection for him artistically," Rogers once said. "I think that experience... was a divine blessing."

Nonetheless, it was a relatively short-lived one and Rogers used her success to bargain for dramatic and comedy roles.

She landed a wisecracking role opposite Hepburn in Stage Door, a 1937 hit and in 1938, "she played opposite James Stewart in Vivacious Lady."

In the 1950s, Rogers returned to the theatre and in the 1960s she starred on Broadway in Hello Dolly. In 1968, at the Academy awards ceremony, Rogers and Astaire reunited and danced onstage together to thunderous applause.

Rogers, who in 1932 was briefly engaged to Howard Hughes, was married and divorced from Culpepper, actors Lew Ayres, Jack Briggs, Jacques Bergerac and producer William Marshall. She never had children.

Clinton lays down roots in Iowa

AMES, Iowa (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton, hoping to ward off re-election challengers within his own party, staged a national rural conference Tuesday in this key campaign state and vowed to protect small farms from zealous budget-cutters.

"I don't believe we ought to destroy the farm support programme if we want to keep the family farm," Mr. Clinton said, surrounded by farmers, academics, business leaders and residents of rural America.

Convening the gathering at Iowa State University, Mr. Clinton also called for continued funding of agriculture research programmes and urged conference participants to consider the broader problems of rural America, even off the farm, and to "reward the good values that reside there."

The event was designed to focus on problems and success stories outside America's big cities, with Mr. Clinton outlining the principles his administration will follow in

crafting the 1996 five-year farm bill.

But the underlying reason for the trip was politics. Iowa holds the nation's first test of strength in the string of primaries and caucuses next year, and Mr. Clinton's trip was one of a series he will make to politically important states as the 1996 campaign begins to take shape.

Advisers want him to build support in Iowa to scare away Democratic challengers.

Opening the conference in this farming state, Mr. Clinton conceded that the farm-support programme needs modification in light of the budget deficit. But he said massive cuts would be ill-timed, after trimming subsidies in 1985, 1990 and 1993 and following a world trade agreement that he said is opening markets.

"Should we modify it? Can we improve it? I'm sure we can," Mr. Clinton said. "But our first rule should be: Do no harm."

Mr. Clinton has proposed \$1.5 billion in farm spending cuts over five years. The Senate Agriculture Committee chairman, Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana, shocked many farmers by calling for \$1.5 billion in cuts by the year 2000.

"We can't take a meat ax to this stuff, we have to take a scalpel," Sen. Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, said. With the Republican Congress looking to slash spending, a whole system of crop loans, farmland set-aside payments, export subsidies, disaster insurance and other programmes that farmers and rural Americans depend upon are now on the chopping block.

Linda Roeberg, special education teacher in Reading, Pennsylvania, said cuts to the school lunch programme will especially hurt rural areas. "I teach the future, and the future can't learn in school if it's hungry," she told Mr. Clinton.

As accusations ring, McNamara sets out on a mission of explanation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barry Goldwater, the Vietnam War hawk, called him "one of the best secretaries ever, an IBM machine with legs." Yet within six years, visitors to his huge Pentagon office would find Robert S. McNamara full of self-doubt about the useless war to which he had committed himself.

By 1968, a few months before he quit, the secretary of defence would stand in front of the window, his shoulders shaking.

"He does it all the time now," a secretary told a friend. "He cries into the curtain."

Now Mr. McNamara, at age 78, has broken his silence about the war. He is about to go to the country to explain his errors as the architect of America's most disastrous foreign venture and to tell why he remained silent for 27 years after recognising his "terrible" misjudgment.

As accusations from those who believed in the war and those who did not ring in his ears, Mr. McNamara has set out on a 25-day tour to promote his memoirs, In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam.

He appeared relaxed and confident during his first stop, a speech Monday night before 700 members of the Chicago council on foreign relations. He answered some written questions from the audience, none of which asked why he hadn't spoken out earlier or more loudly against the war.

Mr. McNamara said he believed many senior advisors from that time still believe that the costs the United States paid were justified, adding, "I don't fear these

thoughts." Some council members earlier expressed misgivings about Mr. McNamara's recent criticism of the war.

"It shows a total lack of sensitivity to those under the ground," said Sam Sarkesian, 67, who was a lieutenant colonel in Vietnam. "Why didn't he open up at the time? It might have saved a few lives."

Appearances are scheduled in Boston, Dallas and Austin in Texas, Atlanta, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Toronto, Canada.

Brian Vandemark, a U.S. Naval Academy history teacher who helped Mr. McNamara write the book, sees the undertaking as courageous. "Who in God's name would subject himself to what he's endured in the last two weeks?" asks Mr. Vandemark, noting the hostile reception the book has gotten from commentators and Vietnam veterans, some of whom have called reports to demand that Mr. McNamara give up his royalties — "blood money," they call them.

"Who else of his generation," Mr. Vandemark asks, "has stood up and said, 'I am responsible and I was wrong'?"

The Minneapolis Star Tribune said in an editorial that Mr. McNamara came close to destroying the military and the country, and declared: "To profess now that he had misgivings then — and didn't act on them — only compounds his culpability." The New York Times said Mr. McNamara must not escape "the moral condemnation of his countrymen."

charts and pointer, with the precision of "body counts" intended to prove mathematically that America was prevailing over communism in South East Asia, Mr. McNamara assured his countrymen that the war was being won at the same time, he now says, he came to regard it as beyond U.S. control.

It took a toll. His son, Craig, hung the American flag upside down in his bedroom and later, as a Stanford University student, protested his father's war. Mr. McNamara once had to flee a student mob at Harvard University through utility tunnels.

After leaving the Pentagon, Mr. McNamara became president of the World Bank and devoted the next 13 years to helping the world's poorest nations. Even then he would rarely share his thoughts about the war.

Since the book appeared this month, Mr. McNamara has been asked to explain why the Kennedy and Johnson administrations never examined the premises that got America into Vietnam.

His critics have been unforgiving. Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, a former pilot who spent seven years as a prisoner in North Vietnam, said Mr. McNamara would have done better to go to his grave silent.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune said in an editorial that Mr. McNamara came close to destroying the military and the country, and declared: "To profess now that he had misgivings then — and didn't act on them — only compounds his culpability." The New York Times said Mr. McNamara must not escape "the moral condemnation of his countrymen."

Dutch fertiliser creates a stink in Britain

LONDON (AFP) — British weathermen Tuesday traced the source of a stench overpowering swathes of England to fertiliser sprayed on fields hundreds of kilometres across the North Sea by Dutch farmers. The Meteorological Office was alerted after being inundated since Monday night by telephone callers from as far apart as the southeast county of Kent and the central city of Birmingham complaining of a smell of "rotten eggs." Some feared that industrial gases were responsible. The Met Office put it down to a combination of fertiliser spraying in the Netherlands and strong easterly winds. "The smell should disperse quite rapidly," a spokesman said. "There is nothing harmful about it and certainly nothing anyone should worry about."

Retirement kills oldest Danish dairy cow at 27

ODENSE, Denmark (AFP) — Denmark's oldest dairy cow, 27-year-old Yrsa, had a beef with her forced retirement while still producing milk and died Monday, just 18 days after being taken off the job. Officials at Den Fynske Landsby open-air museum in Odense said that Yrsa, who had continued to produce milk at the ripe old age of 27, a record, had been unable to reconcile herself to becoming a mere museum object and died with her boots on, chopping the grass in a field — the death all cows dream of. She had made headlines when she was taken earlier this month, after her owner died, from her farm on the small island of Birholm to the Odense Museum for what the staff had billed as a well-deserved retirement for a living Danish legend.

6 U.S. films lead list at Cannes festival

PARIS (AP) — Six U.S. films dominate the list of competitors at this year's Cannes Film Festival, including works by directors Tim Burton, James Ivory and Jim Jarmusch, organisers announced. Four British and three French films are also among the 24 films in the competition at the star-studded event to run from May 17-28 in the Mediterranean resort town. Among the stars scheduled to appear are Catherine Deneuve, Sharon Stone, Diane Keaton, Andie MacDowell, Gong Li, John Malkovich, Martin Landau, Nicolas Cage, Harvey Keitel, Johnny Depp and Matt Dillon. The French film "La Cité Des Enfants Perdus" (City Of Lost Children) by the young directors Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro, opens the 48th annual festival, setting the tone for the event. The film, about a man who lost his capacity to dream and kidnaps children to steal their imaginations, is the duo's second film after Delicatessen. Shifting away from period films that have done well in France but not always abroad, the festival was stressing more youthful directors, Gilles Jacob, a festival co-director, told a news conference. "It shows that youth is very much in the hearts of our young directors," he said. He pointed to the festival poster representing the birth of cinema — an infant crawling out of a montage of old films, on a backdrop of sea and sun. The main competition includes films from Greece, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Taiwan, Romania, Italy, Japan and China. The other French competitors are "N'Oublie Pas Que Tu Vas Mourir" (Don't Forget That You're Going To Die), a film by Xavier Beauvois about a man who abuses drugs after testing positive for AIDS, "La Haine" (Hate), directed by Mathieu Kassovitz. "Cinema in 1995 is less about couples and family and more about the future of societies, our collective destiny," said Pierre Viot, festival president. Among the U.S. entries are Dead Man, starring Depp and Robert Mitchum, directed by Jarmusch; Down by Law, Ed Wood was directed by Burton (Batman) and Jefferson in Paris is by Ivory (Remains Of The Day). Kids is directed by Larry Clark, Beyond Reason by John Boorman, and Angels And Insects by Philip Haas. British films include The Neon Bible by Terence Davies, Land And Freedom by Ken Loach (director of Raining Stones), Carrington by Christopher Hampton and The Madness Of King George by Nicholas Hyman.

ty are not increased, notably the extension of a crumbling truce, a spokesman said.

Mr. Balladur told a cabinet meeting that France was still waiting for a response to French demands made last week in the wake of the killings of two French U.N. troops in Bosnia in a two-day period.

"The prime minister recalled that French troops can only remain at the heart of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on two conditions," said government spokesman Philippe Douste-Blazy.

These were "an extension of the ceasefire and the strengthening of UNPROFOR not only in terms of protection but also of means," he said, reporting Mr. Balladur's comments.

"If these two conditions are not met, we will have to think about proposing the withdrawal of French troops from UNPROFOR," he said.

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Encouraging offer

RUSSIA'S OFFER to suspend military operations in Chechnya during the May 8 and 9 celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II is only a cosmetic measure that would not lead to permanent cessation of hostilities in the Caucasus republic. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has made this limited offer Tuesday as a desperate gesture to ease pressure on President Boris Yeltsin from U.S. President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders expected to attend the anniversary ceremonies in Moscow next week.

Much more serious though is Mr. Chernomyrdin's offer to Chechen fighters to start immediate peace talks without any preconditions. The international community cannot be interested in just a temporary halting of military operations in Chechnya. What the world seeks and insists on is the beginning of meaningful talks between Russian and Chechen leaders that could lead to an end to the bloodshed. The Chechens' three-year-old independence bid has been brutally crushed by Russian troops following their large-scale intervention last December on the pretext that the crisis was an internal Russian conflict. Washington and other major capitals of the world have seemingly accepted this crude Russian explanation. However, recent crises all over the world have proved that no conflict that entails the slaughter of thousands of people, especially civilians, remains only as an internal problem of no concern to the international community. This is where the Russian thesis is at fault despite the support it received from several circles. International law does not view the systematic violation of human rights in any country as a mere local issue that lacks an international dimension. Every international human rights convention permits international intervention whenever civilians are systematically killed as has been happening in Chechnya and Rwanda. As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Moscow is treaty-obligated to accept some sort of international jurisdiction over the alarming situation in the Caucasus region. Any pretense to the contrary would make a mockery of all basic human rights instruments, not to mention the relevant Fourth Geneva Convention.

President Clinton should therefore use his impending visit to Moscow to impress upon his Russian counterpart the point that human rights and their interpretations apply to all countries, big or small, friend or foe. Meanwhile, the Chechen fighters should be encouraged to take up the challenge presented to them by the Russian prime minister and accept to negotiate their future on the basis of international norms which obviously include the right to self-determination.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) entered Gaza and Jericho as part of a plan under the Oslo agreement paving the ground for the restoration of the Palestinian people's full rights and not in order to provide security for the Israelis. No one can protect the occupation or guarantee the security of Israel and its citizens; and therefore it is illogical for the Israeli government to demand that the PNA protect Israeli interests while the occupation remains in place, said Ibrahim Al Absi. It is logical to assume that the resistance activity should stop within the self-rule areas, but it is unacceptable to see resistance activities halted in areas under direct Israeli occupation, said the writer. If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government is sincerely oriented towards an agreement with the PNA, said the writer, it can withdraw its forces from the occupied lands and implement the Oslo agreement.

A WRITER in Al Dustour discussed the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, saying that the residents of the refugee camps now live in a state of perpetual concern and fear over their future. Saleh Qallab said that it is not enough that these refugees continue to live in miserable conditions, but they also are in constant anxiety as they feel they are not wanted on Lebanese territory and at the same time they realise that it is impossible for them to be transferred to Jordan or Iraq. Saying that the estimated half a million refugees in Lebanon live an isolated life as their camps lack the basic services and proper sanitation and they do not enjoy any rights, the writer said these refugees have faced the Israeli invasion and the subsequent massacres and sieges. As the region is entering an era of peace, these refugees feel that they are heading towards the unknown, said the writer.

View from Academia

Democracy offers opportunities, not handouts

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

MANY PEOPLE in our part of the world are under the impression that in a democratic political system the concerns, needs and rights of individuals are automatically acted upon, catered for and guaranteed by the government, or ought to be. Such conception is not only naive and false (a grave misconception, in fact) but can also be damaging to the individual who holds it and to the democratic process itself. Misconceptions, as we all know, are extremely inhibiting and harmful.

There is no doubt, of course, that the problems, worries, concerns, needs and aspirations of citizens lie at the heart of democracy; they are given a great deal of attention, priority and urgency. What is the difference between democracy and other autocratic, totalitarian and dictatorial forms of government if the governing democratic body (the legislative as well as the executive) does not consciously and actively seek to find out what bothers people and what makes them happy? "Happiness," according to the American Declaration of Independence, is an individual "right." According to the Declaration of Independence also "Governments are instituted among Men" (and "Women" we should add) in order "to secure people's rights." In many democratic societies, representatives of the people in the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government do lend a sympathetic ear and often bow to the wishes of their constituents (even though some of them at times turn their backs to the people). It is not unrealistic of the public, therefore, to have certain expectations of the government, even greater expectations. What is the government for after all? Isn't it to run errands for and the "serve" the citizen?

Yet, the citizen has an important role to play, other than that of his/her representatives. Whether the government does or does not live up to the noble mission of serving people and catering to their various needs (in many cases it does not), the citizen is supposed to have a say in matters, both in a complementary way to the work of his representatives and independently. In an excellent recent study of the subject, *Citizen Politics in Western Democracies* (1988), which is currently being translated into Arabic, Russell J. Dalton examines in detail the scope, extent and limits of the political role of "the average citizen" in the U.S., Britain, France and West Germany. The thrust argument throughout the whole book is that the citizen is not merely a party member, a voter or a political spectator, rather, he/she is a protester, campaign worker, and community activist. There are limits to what ordinary individuals can do in democracies, but there are also significant roles, achievements and breakthroughs.

In our society, which is confidently moving in the direction of democracy, the citizen is essentially (to use Dalton's terminology) a political spectator. He does vote in elections (more to oblige others than to make a point), but he is not (and I am talking about the majority here) a party

member, a protester, a campaign worker, or a community activist.

The vast majority of people in our society are too passive and too reliant on the government to have any significant role or contribution. Most citizens (perhaps I should say all) — the learned and the uneducated, the rich and the poor, the old and the young — expect the governing body to do the whole work. They expect the latter to knock at their door and hand them magical solutions and rewards on a silver platter. Very few are willing to make an effort, pressure and fight. People in our part of the world would spend days and weeks begging for a personal favour from a government employee or official but would not spare minutes or hours to persuade a couple of people to get together, to join a couple of people or even to sign a petition regarding an important public matter.

Citizens in the so-called popular areas complain the whole time against large vehicles parking amidst their homes. How many of them have ever got together and spoken to the concerned authorities about the matter? Nay, how many of them have got together and signed a petition? Talk to workers, labourers, mechanics, barbers, tailors, etc; they all speak of the need of enjoying benefits of health insurance. Yet, how many of them have done something about it? University students complain that universities do not make available enough activities for them: The department is not doing, the college is not doing, the university is not doing. Well, what have you done, and what are you doing? But the journalists behave in the same manner, the teachers, the civil servants, the farmers, etc. They all want the government, the municipality, the department, the ministry to act on their behalf.

The causes of this disturbing phenomenon are too deeply-rooted, complex and numerous to be accounted for easily and briefly. Three factors, however, strike me as quite essential in this context.

Firstly, and naturally, the problem stems directly from the way we are brought up. Our parents and grandparents — and uncles and aunts and cousins — cater for essentially all of our needs, not only when we are four, 10 or 18, but also when we are at college or university, when we begin our careers, and even when and after we get married. It is quite customary in our society for a poor parent to slave and borrow money to send his son to college and for the son, who is sturdy and who has plenty of time at his disposal, not to trouble himself to work a few hours a week to chip in. If such a person does not do anything to help himself, how is he expected to help others? And this is where democracy, at one level, begins and ends.

Second, the governments themselves are to blame. Until recently, perhaps even until now, the government has made the citizen reliant on it. It thinks, it plans, it executes, it does, it gives; the citizen watches, receives or does not

receive, applauds or mumbles to himself protestingly, and that's about it. We cannot expect a citizen who has been used to the good old ways to change overnight.

Thirdly, and equally crucially, the problem is inherited from the legacy of the past. The model governor in Islamic/Arab history, we have been told and taught, is the one who goes out of his way to find out in person what ails his people. Our history books are full of stories of caliphs, sultans, emirs and rulers — such as Omar Bin Al Khattab or Omar Bin Abdul Aziz — who go out at night or, in hot days, at high noon — to listen at people's windows or gates with the aim of finding out what the wishes of the people are, what their needs or complaints are, etc. And they act promptly, righting wrongs and fulfilling aspirations. It is surprising how many people in our part of the world expect of today's government what our forefathers expected of the caliphs, sultans, emirs and rulers. I personally highly value and highly appreciate what the two Omars did in their own day (in fact, they are two of my most favourite heroes). But we cannot expect from rulers and representatives under our democratic system what we expect from the two Omars. Who has the time today to knock at the doors in Amman and help people? Anyhow, this is not how democracy works. Democracy makes the opportunity available and expects people to seek the realisation of it. If you stay at home in democracy, nobody knocks at your door, except perhaps the tax collector. You have to go out, seek, group, regroup, ask once and twice and three times, and make things happen. The citizen is a participant, a partner, a player in the field, not a spectator. In democracy, there are no handouts.

In addition to the everlasting task of education, two things need to be done:

— The government, which has contributed (knowingly or unwittingly) to the many false expectations people have of it these days, must come up with a strategy of weaning people from itself. It is time for us to grow up and mature, and I am sure that the experts at the various ministries and in the national higher committees are capable of drawing up plans to this effect and executing them to the best of our satisfaction.

— We need to have a serious debate — through the media, our various intellectual forums, our higher educational institutions, our youth establishments and programmes, etc — about the various intricate meanings and aspects of democracy. There is a great deal of ignorance in our part of the world about democracy and a great deal of distortion and confusion. We need to understand it better and explain it better. Then we can expect it to work.

Unless our citizen understands democracy fairly reasonably (and he is at present does not), how can we expect him to reap its precious benefits?



Jerusalem shouldn't become election issue for winning European Jewish vote

By Pascal B. Karmy

DURING HIS election campaign, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur declared that "Jerusalem must be open to all religions but my personal feeling is that it does belong to the Jews a bit more than it does to others," adding in the French Jewish weekly 'Actualité Juive', that "Jerusalem is the soul of Israel and Judaism is the only religion where God has wanted faith in him to be incarnated in a land. Nothing similar exists in any other religion."

It goes without saying that the purpose of Balladur's statement is to win the Jewish votes. This reminds me of De Gaulle's saying to the effect that the tragedy of the 20th century is the American voters, meaning that the statement discards their principles and ethics for the sake of winning the votes of the people. Similarly, Mr. Balladur is following suit to win the votes of the Jews in France. Hopefully this pattern of campaigning will not be continued or adopted now or in the future by French or European statesmen. In his declaration, Mr. Balladur posed as if he were a judge dispensing justice between Jews, Muslims and Christians. But he tipped the Jewish scale of the balance in favour of the Jews as regards Jerusalem.

Knowing the mundane purpose of Mr. Balladur's statement in an election campaign, Christians and Muslims should not care less for his statement. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that election candidates should demean them-

selves in this manner and thus distort history for the sake of election to the position to which they aspire.

However, let us consider shortly the crux of the history of Jerusalem. There is no doubt at all that Jerusalem is more holy to Christianity than to Judaism. Indeed the faith of the Christians in God was incarnated in Jerusalem by Jesus Christ, who lived, preached the Gospel of God, was crucified in Jerusalem and ascended to heaven from Jerusalem. Jerusalem is consequently the holiest city in Christianity and the soul of Christianity. Christians do not believe that the Old Testament has given the modern state of Israel an unconditional ownership of Jerusalem to the exclusion of the indigenous people, namely the Palestinians who are the descendants of the original inhabitants, the Canaanites, the Jebusites and the Amorites. La G-range Declaration, issued by an ecumenical group of Christians — namely Roman Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox — which met in Illinois in 1979 and 1981 — contested the belief in some Christian quarters that the Old Testament gives to the modern state of Israel a divine right and sanction to the state of Israel's policy of territorial acquisition. In his book "Whose promised land?" Colin Chapman (an Episcopal Church minister) questions whether the Jews believing in the prophecy "have acted according to the law by asking about how the Jews acquired the land and how they treated the Arabs; how much of the

land has been acquired legally; how much has been acquired by war; how much has been acquired illegally by being stolen, confiscated or expropriated. As a Christian, Mr. Chapman says he "feels bound to conclude that the promise of the Land to Abraham and his descendants does not give the Jews a divine right to possess the land for all times." Mr. Chapman does not believe that the state of Israel is of God. He would go further to suggest that for a Christian to interpret the creation of Israel as the fulfilment of prophecy represents a kind of regression. That he says "will be a return to a way of thinking which the disciples of Christ had abandoned once and for all when they grasped the kind of spiritual Kingdom which Christ had inaugurated through his death and resurrection."

Jerusalem is equally very important to the Arabs and Muslims as it is the place of the nocturnal journey of the Prophet Mohammad to Heaven. It is also the site of the Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, which are venerated by all Muslims, as the third holiest place in Islam. In his book "A Study on Jerusalem," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan says that "The question of the holy places is for Israel a weak point in its claim that Jerusalem is, for religious and historical reasons, destined to be the capital and religious centre of the Jewish state for ever. Its religious claims are not unique but are shared with two other religions, over a long period of time, with many millions of adherents

in the contemporary world."

Israel occupied Jerusalem in 1967 and was and is still considered an occupier under international law and the pertinent United Nations resolutions. Jerusalem was a Canaanite-Jebusite city. It was not the object or subject of the Jewish Torah. When Moses led the Hebrews from Egypt, his destination was not Jerusalem but only the Land of Canaan, which is the original name of Palestine. It was only in the year 1000 BC that King David had succeeded in conquering Jerusalem from the Jebusites. The Hebrew conquest of part of the land of Canaan ended by the Babylonian invasion in the year 587 B.C. Likewise, the Jewish conquest of East Jerusalem in 1967 must end under international law and Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

In conclusion, Israel and its supporters, such as Mr. Balladur, must not forget that the Arabs and Muslims will not abandon or relinquish their right to East Jerusalem and its holy places. The sooner Israel acknowledges this right and ends its occupation of Jerusalem the better for Israel in the long run. Otherwise, the denial of this right may spark a religious war which nobody desires and for which Israel will be responsible.

Maybe Israel is arrogantly holding now the laurels of victory relying on the somewhat inert Arab World but this lethargic state of the Arabs or of the Muslims will not endure forever.

Exiles fight Saudi regime with fax and religious fervor

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — When Muslim fundamentalists inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew the shah of Iran, one of their most powerful weapons was the cassette recorder. Sixteen years later, dissidents trying to dethrone another Middle Eastern monarch — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia — are waging their struggle with an updated revolutionary arsenal: Fax machines, video camcorders, mobile phones and electronic mail.

Many of the dissidents belong to the London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights. The group is considered the best organized in opposing the 72-year-old king, a key U.S. ally in the region. "They are ahead of the government in the technology spectrum," said Aziz Abu Hamad a former Saudi government lawyer now with Human Rights Watch-Middle East in New York. "The government is concerned."

As the oil-based economy of the desert kingdom sputters with cash-flow problems and rising unemployment, the committee is increasingly spreading strident calls for resistance. Its faxes purport to expose stories of corruption, misrule and allegedly un-Islamic sex lives of the royal family. The group also has smuggled in videotapes of protest demonstrations not shown on state-run television.

The group's leader, Mohammad Al Mass'ari, said many of his associates are middle-class intellectuals and technocrats who believe in a pristine form of Islam modernised with human values they learned on Western college campuses. He said the committee does not envision an Islamic system based on Iran's restrictive model — "even marginal groups like Shites would have their place." It also would jettison the current Saudi version of a religious state and replace it with an elected republican government, he said.

That puts the group at odds with another activist community — conservative young clergy who are pro-

monarchy but want stricter conformity to Islamic codes of old. They have blocked limited attempts by the royal family to adopt Western practices to appease the growing and often foreign-educated middle class, such as allowing women to drive. Although the committee does not advocate violence, some analysts draw parallels to early 1970s Iran, when smuggled tapes of the exiled Khomeini's fiery sermons primed the masses for the upheaval that ousted the shah.

"It is 1976-77 all over again. But this time we are in the Arabian peninsula," said Hans-Heino Kopietz, a Middle East specialist in London. Mr. Kopietz and Mr. Abu Hamad said they could not quantify the committee's support, but both said information from sources within Saudi Arabia indicated it is addressing a broad audience.

"I don't know if it is 50 per cent or 60 per cent, but there is a mass of growing dissatisfaction or disillusion," Mr. Kopietz said.

A Saudi resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the group's faxes are copied and circulated across the kingdom. Mr. Mass'ari, a German-educated professor of theoretical physics, and other committee members left Saudi Arabia last year after the group was banned by religious decree. The group was formed in 1993 by six religious scholars.

Mr. Mass'ari, who is seeking political asylum in Britain, said he was detained for six months and tortured before he fled.

He and his colleagues bombard the kingdom with faxed and e-mailed newsletters almost daily, giving accounts of strikes, mosque sit-ins and crackdowns on dissidents.

The group's sources in the kingdom get the news to the committee by dialing new toll-free numbers that connect directly to the United States or Britain. Mr. Mass'ari believes the government has been unable to monitor much of the communications because these contacts have been used to coordinate the smuggling out of dissidents.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 27-28
By Dr. Ahmad Majdoun
ot handouts

Weekender

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SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

When silence is not golden, and the truth hits home

Hamadeh Fara'aneh, a political columnist of eclectic history, has a bone to pick with the administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA). Criticised heavily for granting an interview to Israeli Television via telephone from Amman on April 6, Fara'aneh said he has been summoned by the JWA committee for a meeting on Monday to discuss the issue of his continued membership. Fara'aneh is certain that the decision to revoke his JWA membership has already been taken. The interview was made and broadcast the same day as the JWA elections for the administrative committee and president, and the interview, according to Fara'aneh, centred on the outcome of those elections. Fara'aneh said he told Israeli TV that the results of the election represented a victory for the faction that is "democratic, pluralistic and realistic." He added that it was also a defeat of the leftist fundamentalist faction that calls for extremism. He told Israeli TV, he said, that the new administrative committee now represented all shades of the political spectrum.



Hamadeh Fara'aneh

What angered the JWA, said Fara'aneh, was not what he said to Israeli TV but rather that he said anything at all. According to an internal JWA regulation passed last August in advance of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October, JWA members are forbidden from dealing with Israeli media, politicians or intellectuals. Fara'aneh, who has been a JWA member since 1974, said Israeli TV contacted him because he is a daily columnist, his writings are "realistic and reasonable," and because he had met Israeli TV producer Yusef Ismail at the October 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference, though at the time he refused to give an interview. The Al Dustour columnist's life has not been without earlier controversies. He has been jailed in Jordan, Syria and Egypt, he said, for his political activities -- jail terms, he said, add up to a cumulative 10 years. But Fara'aneh, who is a member of the Palestine National Council and then served on the Royal Commission charged with writing the Jordanian National Charter, feels it is his right to express his opinions at any forum. He said that following the Oslo and Wadi Araba peace accords, new political realities arose. "I deal with those new realities," Fara'aneh said.

According to Fara'aneh, who said he and his family have received threats since his interview with Israeli TV, the JWA administrative committee approached him through intermediaries asking him to either apologise or resign. He refused, he said. Taking the threats seriously, Fara'aneh, 45, cited a report in a local tabloid wherein he said JWA President Ibrahim Abisi told the paper that he would silence Fara'aneh, if not through expulsion from the JWA, then by "other means."

Waiting for Toujan: Silencing is how House Deputy Toujan Faisal interpreted a Mafrag governorate decision to refuse to allow the convening of a seminar in which she and her colleague Deputy Bassam Haddadin were to be the guest speakers. The seminar was to be held at the Professional Association Complex in Mafrag. Ms. Faisal penned off her anger at the decision in article in the local press headlined "Toujan opens fire on governors and administrative governors." Replying to that article in a tabloid, attorney for the Professional Association Complex in Mafrag Mahmoud Hawamdeh defends the decision, although it was his association that invited the two deputies to speak. He admits that when the association members first heard of the official refusal to allow the seminar they were taken by surprise. But, he added, that after meeting with the officials, the association understood that the objection was not to the seminar per se, but to the holding of a political event in a non-political forum, i.e. the Professional Association Complex. It remains to be seen if Deputy Faisal will send a stinging volley back in reply this week or whether she will wait to see the outcome of a government plan to issue new regulations regarding public assembly.

All the colours that offend: If the name Toujan Faisal is synonymous with controversy, Benetton, according to one Israeli marketing professional, is synonymous with shock treatment. Miriam Kreinin, writing in the Jerusalem Post, accuses the Italian clothing empire with coming up with innovative advertising campaigns "which have no other point other than shocking the view into brand recognition." But while she said that Benetton's advertising style was "a daring and positive move" in the early 1980s and that later ads "caused a great deal of controversy," Kreinin takes offence at Benetton's spring catalogue, saying it "doubles as a piece of Palestinian propaganda." "It (Benetton) obviously chose the Palestinian cause as the subject because the media has portrayed it as a 'sexy,' contemporary issue," snipes Kreinin. She presumes that Benetton "knows nothing about the history, depth or sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict" and thus "demonstrates this amply by its incomplete documentation of the history of the Palestinians and their conflict with Israel, and by a map -- not drawn to size -- that misconstrues the geography of the Middle East." She suggests that if Benetton were truly interested in showing the reality of the conflict it might insert "a page or two picturing the bombings by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip," or a "picture of the bus bombing in downtown Tel Aviv," or "the double bomb set at Beit Lid." She ends her commentary, entitled "Hard sell," saying, "But I guess those people can't model clothes anymore." If the writer has found Benetton's advertising so objectionable in the past, one wonders why she waited until the company featured people under Israeli occupation to air her "professional" irritation.

A meat by any other name: The dream of any advertiser would be to come up with an idea that would make a brand name synonymous with the product. But in the case of Sinyora, a brand name of what is locally referred to as mortadella but is really processed luncheon meat, that established synonymy recently backfired. A local tabloid published an article warning its readers that violations were discovered in the processing of some materials used in producing "mortadella, luncheon meat and" -- you guessed it -- "Sinyora." Sinyora company attorney Kamal Saba sent an ever-so polite letter to the editor of the tabloid which was published in full. In his letter Saba said that the use of the brand name Sinyora in the article has caused damage to the company's more than 30-year reputation of

being "the best mortadella manufacturer." Demanding that a correction be published, as he said was promised him by the tabloid's editors, Saba said he would seek legal recourse if the Sinyora company was not accorded satisfaction. An editor's note following Saba's letter put the blame for not printing a correction earlier on technical reasons. And, then it faulted Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi for the use of the word Sinyora in a memorandum regarding violations in luncheon meat processing. But where was the editorial responsibility?

A Nordic breadth of fresh air: Not even here a year yet, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and its Ambassador Tove S. Kijewski, are hard at work to bring "the first broad manifestation of Norwegian culture to Jordan." Wedged into a week of Jordanian handicraft and art exhibitions for spring, "Encounters," a cultural exchange between artists in Jordan and Norway starts off May 2 with a recital at Darat Al Funun by Norwegian folk musicians Reidun Horvei and Einar Mjølness and Jordanian oud-player Sakher Hattar. On May 3, an exhibition of Norwegian contemporary art goes on display at the National Gallery of Fine Arts featuring the works of Goran Ohldeick (graphics), Jan Erik Willgohs (paintings), Kjetil I. Berge (graphic/plaster prints), Marit Benne Nordheim (sculptures), Sigrid Sævi (dry pastel drawing), Tove Pedersen (textiles, and Inger Johanne Brautaset (textiles and paper work). A hands-on encounter will take shape in the form of an exhibition of embroideries on national costumes of Norway and Jordan, and of jewellery. Rugs designed by Sævi, Pedersen and Brautaset and woven by the women of the Bani Hamida tribe will draw the backdrop to this blending of traditional talents. On the entertainment end Kijewski has teamed up with restaurateur Zeid Ksours for a palate-tempting evening of seafood delights featuring Norwegian smoked salmon, and a special musical treat on the evening of May 4 at Restaurant Romero in Amman. On Friday, May 5, an encounter with history will take place at Umm Qais where the Norwegian culture week will organise an excursion to visit the Greek, Roman and Byzantine excavations and the museum. Later the Roman theatre will come alive for the first time in ages with an open air opera recital by Norwegian singer Carl Robert Henie and pianist Peter Anthon Ness. A buffet dinner of a complementary selection of Norwegian and Arabic dishes will cap the evening at the Umm Qais Restaurant. The finale of this cultural exchange will be a Norwegian gourmet dinner-dance at Kan Zannan at which chefs from the Royal Norwegian Navy will prepare their country's specialties, and Mr. Henie will have torn himself away from the wonder of Umm Qais to return to Amman to play at the famous Abu Jaber castle. The Norwegian cultural week is being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

French networking: Another form of cultural exchange takes place daily via satellite from France. But perhaps what few people may be aware of is that Jordan Television's (JTV) foreign channel brings its viewers 17 hours of French programming every week, and all that courtesy of Canal France International (CFI). CFI was established in 1989 on the initiative of the French Ministry of Overseas Cooperation and Development to foster exchange with television networks in Africa. It has since become a showcase for French television and cinema production throughout the world. Here for a brief two-day visit to check in on how things were progressing and how they could be improved was CFI President Director General Philippe Baudillon. Having met with Jordan Television and Radio Corporation Director General Ihsan Ramzi, Jordan Television Director Nasser Judeh and JTV's French programming team, Baudillon, a former Middle East and Africa expert for the cabinet of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, reviewed channels for further

cooperation and ideas for future plans. Baudillon found JTV to have "excellent technical management," and said its capabilities will enable CFI to introduce improvements including more on-line information on CFI programmes. He added that CFI recognised that cultural preferences vary and therefore starting mid-September special airings for Africa and Eastern Europe will be introduced. He said the Arab region will be next. This was Baudillon's first visit to Jordan, and it was described as fruitful and promising.



Philippe Baudillon

Keeping them on their toes: Promising is how Royal Jordanian's Executive Assistant of Public Relations Munib Toukan would describe the airline's newly assembled folklore troupe. Seeing a need to inject "new blood" into the dance troupe, Toukan replaced nine of the original 26 dancers mostly gleaned from the RJ staff and from students from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. Toukan had suspended performances by the group three months ago when he noted indications of a slack in standards. He said he postponed the start up of the group until he could find "talented, energetic and dedicated youth" to represent the airline and country at national and international festivals. The revamped troupe will stage a short sampling of their folklore footwork for a select audience, said Toukan, before getting the final seal of approval.

Farewell from the faithful: It was wheels up Wednesday evening for Stephen Griffith, English chaplain of the Anglican English-speaking Church near First Circle as a crowd of his devoted congregation bid him adieu. Departing on British Airways to London, Stephen, as he is best known to all who know him, is not certain where his next post will be, after his three-year mission here in Jordan. The 45 year-old clergyman was regaled with several farewell parties, most notably that hosted by British envoy James Watt and his wife Ghislaine at the home of British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe who was in England for the wedding of his daughter. Well-wishers from the British embassy staff, the International Community School, the Amman Baccalaureate School and the church congregation ate, drank and were merry, except perhaps for one Franciscan monk from Massachusetts whose brown hooded robe, typical of his order, seemed to command a little more than reverence from the waiters who avoided even eye contact with him, let alone offer him a beverage.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Beware of Jordanians with radios

JORDANIANS SHOULD exercise great care while packing their luggage. Other than the usual inconvenience of forgetting a shirt or a pair of socks, electronics can leave you stranded between international airports, and possibly in the midst of an international incident. A radio, which in international news terminology is called bomb making equipment, is the evil of all evils, whether FM or AM, single or double deck, Japanese made or other. It can prove hazardous to your health as well as to your travel plans. A Jordanian carrying a battery loaded radio could face severe penalty in many countries. If you happen to be a Jordanian travelling abroad, for whatever sinister reason you may have, such as vacation, study or business, keep a sharp eye on the news in the country you are visiting as well as all neighbouring countries within a 16,000 KM radius. Be prepared to be pulled in for questioning for any criminal acts, industrial accidents, natural disasters,

political or social upheavals. Any radio found on your person exponentially increases the chances of your conviction. For those of us who cannot travel without a radio, here are some handy tips: — Choose a radio that has soothing colours and does not make any sudden noises. — Do not choose a complex radio as that could be evidence implicating you in a complex plot. Even while following the above hints, travel with great care. If you happen to get caught with a battery loaded radio then act calm. Proper procedure and etiquette require that you cooperate fully with those individuals whose responsibility it is to seek out and punish Jordanians with radios. Cooperate as patiently as you can till your guilt is proven or at least your travel plans ruined. Anything less than destroying your travel plans won't satisfy the media. While being questioned, avoid menacing looks that we Jordanians have perfected into an art, they seldom

work. Avoid smiles, they can be interpreted as cover of your nervousness and therefore proof of your guilt. When confronted with the question: Is this your radio? Answer yes. Do not try any of the lame excuses that it is a gift for your brother, sister, son, daughter or any other family member. You will only drag them into the conspiracy of whatever you are charged with and possibly diminish your chances of being given only one life sentence. Avoid pressing the "On" switch on the radio at all costs. As a general rule Jordanians should not travel within 48 hours of any event appearing on CNN that could somehow be linked to you through a radio set. Final words for Jordanian travellers: Always keep a lookout and travel light, lynching mobs have statistically been proven to form within two minutes. A foreign passport does not guarantee a fair trial if you are of Middle Eastern origin.

Ahmad Tabbaa

Thoughts for this week

Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul — Henry van Dyke, American clergyman, (1852-1933). In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule — Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher, (1844-1900). When we cannot find contentment in ourselves it is useless to seek it elsewhere — Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld, French author (1613-1680). Superstition is the religion of feeble minds — Edmund Burke, British statesman (1729-1797). Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently — attributed to Rosa Luxemburg, German Socialist leader (1870-1919). Make haste slowly — Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor (63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

Vox populi

By Jean-Claude Elias

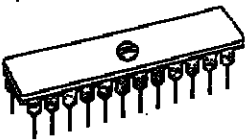
The computer industry is still in a revolutionary phase. Which is to say that it is continuously undergoing radical transformations, at a fast rate and in several directions. Some of these transformations succeed while other fail. It takes considerable effort, time and money from PC (personal computer) users to follow up the trend.

Wouldn't it be possible for the software and hardware designers to listen to what users want in the first place? After all this is how marketing is supposed to work. The current mode is towards heavier, more complicated systems that are becoming less and less reliable. True, they offer millions of features and boast impressive technical characteristics.

Computer operators however do not care for characteristics. They want a certain job done. They want it done right and on time. They also want to know they can trust the system. A few reliable functions are better than hundreds that do not always work.

Recently, the much publicised flaw in Intel's Pentium microprocessor has drawn people's attention to a fundamental problem — machines reliability. Microsoft is preparing to launch a new version of the Windows operating system. The new release, so far coded Windows 95, will have three times more code (programming) lines than the current 3.1 version. In other words it will be three times more complex and prone to problems. When you think that even the "3.1" was not perfect, you just cross your fingers and hope for the best.

chip talk



A few weeks ago I had the privilege to interview the celebrated Italian Professor Roberto Busa who was visiting Amman for a series of lectures on the use of computers in linguistics. Prof. Busa, now 82, started exploiting computer technology in the late forties. He never cared for specific features, hardware or software details, as long as the system could process the information he needed. He never wasted time on gadgets but spent it on real action. He has input the equivalent of 500 millions database records so far. A lesson for us all and a remarkable example of goal-oriented thinking.

I have watched young people use PCs. They are the hungriest for new programmes. New features and science fiction characteristics. They also spend much more time testing software than actually using it. In the end it is probably a matter of knowing what we want.

It is no surprise that the world's most trusted car (you know, the German machine with a star on the hood...) has no useless gadgets nor frills. It isn't even the fastest on the road. Would it be too much to ask the computer industry to take example?

Things can only get worse

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

What things? Apparently everything. Just the other day when I was talking to one of my friends, we got talking about the sorts of remedies that we can use to heal our present wounds, he said that our present problems, be they political, cultural or social, can only get worse before they get any better, if they ever will.

"What do you mean?" I said. "Look..." he said. "...We have a couple of serious traffic accidents and one day later everybody is talking about them and about the different ways that we can employ to stop them from harvesting more innocent people, right? Well, if everybody is so aware of the problem of accidents and their causes, then why do they happen at such an alarming pace?"

On television, every driver interviewed is transformed into an incredibly outstanding citizen and law abiding driver. If this was truly the case, then who is responsible for all the accidents that haunt us day and night? At this point my friend paused for a few seconds as if to test my reaction to his proposition. "Could it be aliens from Mars, I said sarcastically?"

"To tell you the truth, I am waiting for someone to come forward with such an explanation since all of us in this country are so self-righteous that it could not possibly be our own fault. I mean, if you had seen all the letters to the newspapers from readers who condemned irresponsible driving, you would think that it can only be some alien species that drive around on our streets."

"Or there could be another explanation." I said, as my friend looked at me with inquisitive eyes. "I mean that it could be that the few hundred people who had

sent their contribution to the papers are the only serious and responsible citizens who care for their lives and the lives of other drivers while all other drivers are in fact not aliens, but are sad, sick and stupid, and so seem irresponsible."

"Ah..." came a voice from behind me to say, "...you believe them to be sick and stupid because you judge them by your standards, but if you stoop down to their level, you will discover an innate desire in them to break the law simply because it makes them feel good. Their motives are not inherently evil, but if you take a closer look, you will find a mixture of selfishness, indifference and carelessness underneath what you have labelled stupidity. To show you what I mean, take the everyday situation of the car driving the wrong way in a one way street. Everybody does it, but for different reasons. Some do it because they are clumsy, others do it out of need while others do it because they believe it to be a God-given right. Even police vehicles do it. But there also is the other side of the coin. This is the department who had decided in the first place to make a street a one way street based on certain criteria."

But, as does everything else, these criteria change. And when they do, the position of our imaginary street should also change. But sadly, it never does because somebody, somewhere is not doing their job properly.

"Right..." I said. "...Then what all this boils down to is that our society is a mixture of the clumsy, the needy, the indifferent and the selfish."

"That is very true..." came the voice from across the room. "...We talk a lot so we think that we do a lot when in fact we do nothing and so we have nothing."

INCREDIBLE FACTS

★ Every spring a ceremony for hunchbacked whales at the Coasts Research Centre in Provincetown, in Massachusetts, is held so sea experts could identify their sailing speed.

★ The domesticated silkworm butterfly cannot live isolated from human-beings. If it happened, it could never fly.

★ Scientists in Chile have installed a gigantic network that occupies an area of 12,000 square feet. A very high mountainous ridge was selected where thick fog existing there could have been collected.

What was the outcome?

Nearly 1,440 litres of pure water had been collected and stored in each day!!

★ In a competition organised for the longest kiss at one of the American cities, a couple managed to exchange a hot kiss for more than 130 hours and 137 seconds.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Where are you going? *Ela ayna anta thahib?*
— First to the post office, then to the market.
Awwalan ela maktab el-barood waba'da thalik el-souk.

— Did you read this book? *Hal qara'ta hathal-kitab?*
— Yes, it's very interesting and full of human and heroic deeds.
Na'am, fahowa haafilan bel'amal al-insaniya wal-botooliya.

— Will you write to me? *Hal sataktob lee?*
— Of course, from time to time.
Tab'an, min waqten le'aakhar.

— What do you think of this shirt?
Ma ra'yoka fee hathal khamees?

— It's exactly to my liking.
Innahu yarookoni tamaman.

— What did she do with the love letters?
Matha fa'alat bir-rassa'el al-gharamiya?

— She burnt them to ashes. *Ahraqt'ha ela ramad.*

— Is your watch accurate? *Hal saa'atoka madboota?*

— It's right to a minute.
Innaha madboota bid'daqeeqa.

— Are you planning to join the Royal Air Force?
Hal tofakkir fil-indemam elas-selah al-jawwi al-Malaki?

— What's your hope in life?
Ma howa amaloka fil-hayat?

— To see my country living in peace with all nations.
An ara watani ya'eesh fee salam ma'a kull al'shu'ooob.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TIME FOR FUN

★ As the little boy was talking to his father, a donkey went past them.

SON: Do donkeys ever marry, dad?

FATHER: Who do you think would marry but donkeys, my son?

★ BRIDEGROOM: How many persons did you know before me?

The young bride didn't give a comforting answer. The man was afraid she had got angry with him. So he apologised. Yet she still determined not to say a word. After about half an hour silence, he returned to ask her:

"Are you really angry with me, darling?"

"No, but I'm just counting them," came the astounding reply.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Amazon River flows mainly through Brazil. In what country does it begin?

- The simplest atom is the hydrogen atom. Why is it the simplest?
- What letter of the alphabet represents "Planck's Constant"?
- Einstein is associated with the theory of relativity; what is the concept that Darwin is associated with?
- How would you treat someone suffering from a severe electric shock?

PUZZLES

THREE + THREE MAKE TWENTY

In these 40 three-letter words there are 20 six-letter words. Using each word below only once, form the new words.

can	act	for	row
end	law	pit	sad
ear	red	fat	get
arm	fly	out	bat
fur	ape	ear	any
era	rot	ore	her
ten	cat	beg	tic
bet	ash	gad	nab
cam	ray	one	age
arc	way	dam	den

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 27

1:00 Dennis The Menace

1:30 My Secret Identity

2:00 NBA

3:00 Survival

3:50 Blue Heelers

4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:00 The Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Shocked

Starring: Jodie Foster & John Lithgow

The marriage of a young orphan to an older man proves stifling. Her imagination turns to murder, with the lovely New Zealand landscape in perfect contrast to her dreary thoughts.

12:00 Burning Shores

Friday, April 28

1:00 Lift Off

1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life

2:45 Feature Film — Charlie And The Angel

Starring: Fred MacMurray & Gloris Leachman

The movie is about a guardian angel who teaches an exciting man a few lessons in kindness and humility before his time on Earth is up.

4:15 White Fang

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

11:30 Feature Film — A Star Is Born

Starring: Janet Gaynor & Fredric March

The story of an aging actor whose career is beginning to go on the skids while his youthful bride's career is starting to blossom.

Saturday, April 29

2:00 Dog City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Gillette World Sport

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer

Footsteps In The Snow

The programme traces the early exploration and exploitation of the continent and its surrounding islands.

8:30 The Nanny

9:00 Documentary — Dive The World

9:15 Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Law And Jake Wade

Starring: Robert Taylor & Richard Widmark

A robust Western in which a bad guy, while looking for buried treasure, starts coming a good guy into helping him.

12:00 Tanamera

Sunday, April 30

2:00 Animated Classics — Aladdin

3:00 Feature Film — Hockey Challenge

Starring: Megan Fellows & Heriry Ramer

A young talented hockey player loses her only

chance of getting into the final contest.

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Attack Force (Z)

Starring: John Phillip Law & Mel Gibson

A group of commandos are on a secret mission against the Japanese in World War II.

12:00 The Hidden Room

Hungry Girls

12:30 Grace And Favour

Monday, May 1

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth

3:50 Pals

4:15 Documentary — The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Q.E.D.

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 The Contender

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

11:20 Feature Film — Convicted: A Mother's Story

Starring: Ann Jillian & Gloria Loring

The story of a convicted woman and a mother of two

children who is sentenced to three-year imprisonment.

Tuesday, May 2

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Boogies Diner

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Starring: Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones

Wednesday, May 3

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine — The Liver

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Dandelion Dead

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Spring movie slump has studios looking to summer

By John Horn
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — Here's one way to see how poorly today's movies are performing: Duck into a local theatre. At a prime-time showing of *Tank Girl* four days after its debut, a total of two people bought tickets.

This United Artists adaptation of a futuristic comic book, which earned a pitiful \$2 million in its debut weekend, isn't the only new movie that's bombing. March admissions were the worst of the 1990s, and Hollywood can't wait for summer — its big-budgeted blockbusters — to arrive.

Only two recent movies — Warner Bros.' *Out-*

break and Paramount's *The Brady Bunch Movie* — have done moderately well at the ticket window so far this year.

The new Warner Bros. gorilla movie *Born To Be Wild* played worse than *Tank Girl*, bringing in \$1.7 million in its first weekend. Other recent washouts include Fox's *Bye Bye, Love*; Disney's *Tall Tale: The Unbelievable Adventures Of Pecos Bill*, *Roommates* and *Heavyweights*; Paramount's *Losing Isaiah*, and *Tristar's Hideaway*.

North American ticket sales for March were \$301.3 million, a five-year low and an 11 per cent decrease from last March. Year-to-date revenues are \$957 million, down more

than 10 per cent from last year's \$1.07 billion. The slump looks even worse when slightly higher ticket prices are factored in.

"I don't think it's the economy. I don't think it's the weather. In fact, there's no baseball, so business should be even better than it is," says Mitch Goldman, whose New Line Cinema is banking on its *Don Juan De Marco* to catch on after its Friday debut. The company's *The Mangler* disappeared days after its March 3 premiere.

Studio executives have looked everywhere to explain the anemic business. The answer always comes back home: they're making bad movies.

Specifically, Hollywood

is making bad, cheap movies. The films aren't simply poorly plotted and acted, they look bad, too. Most of the failing movies are aimed at narrow audiences — the bloody horror flick, the flatulence joke comedy, the action-adventure macho movie.

A few of these "niche" releases have connected with a small audience. Every fan of Chris Farley, the fat comedian on the *Saturday Night Live* TV comedy show, for example, will probably see *Tommy Boy*. That's not a lot of people, though.

Tommy Boy opened in 2,165 theatres and took in \$8 million. Meanwhile, the critically acclaimed Irish movie *Circle Of*

Friends, a romantic comedy aimed at young women, is playing in a mere 339 theatres and has earned almost \$5 million in three weeks.

Another bittersweet comedy that also won raves from critics is the Australian movie *Muriel's Wedding*. It, too, is in limited release and has made \$7.1 million in four weeks.

With low budgets, both *Circle* and *Muriel's Wedding* could go on to reap a lot more, much as *Four Weddings And A Funeral* did last year.

And then there are niche movies that seem to have no niche. Like 1994's *The Mask*, *Tank Girl* is based on an obscure comic book. The

Mask had Jim Carrey and eye-popping special effects. *Tank Girl*, a kind of female *Road Warrior* movie, has... Lori Petty.

Barry London, the distribution chief at Paramount Pictures where *Tommy Boy* was made, says another part of the problem is that top Academy Award-winner *Forrest Gump* already has earned most of its gross. Last year, many people had not seen *Schindler's List* before it triumphed at the Academy Awards.

"Gump doesn't have as much left to earn as *Schindler's List* did," London says. That, in turn, hurts the entire market: People aren't going out to see *Forrest Gump* anymore, or anything else.

To save money for the summer, the studios and the independent companies have been releasing a stream of movies made for about \$10 million — a third of the average cost. Some of these modest films have worked in the past, but few are this year. Furthermore, the companies are spending little money promoting the films. So the quick vanishing acts are almost preordained.

Movies are very expensive, and studios tend to lump together those with major stars and lots of visual effects and release them at the same time.

Well aware of the spring slump, Disney has moved up several of its releases, including *White You*

Were *Sleeping* starring Sandra Bullock. The movie now will open April 21 instead of in August.

The other studios will release their biggest films beginning on Memorial Day at the end of May. The summer roster includes *Batman*, *Free Willy* and *Die Hard* sequels, *Casper*, *Sylvester Stallone's Judge Dredd*, *Tom Hanks in Apollo 13* and *Kevin Costner's Waterworld*, the most expensive movie ever made at more than \$150 million.

Last year's summer propelled sales to an all-time record. With a hitless spring this time around, summer 1995 will have to be even better if another record is to fall.

New films look back to old Hollywood formulas

By John Horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Independent filmmakers have delivered a steady flow of thoughtful and often provocative stories about life, love and heartbreak — a Red here, a *Howards End* there.

These directors have failed, however, to produce old-fashioned, edge-of-your-seat thrills. In some cases, their films may be as good for your mind as they are for your insomnia.

A new crop of art-minded directors is working to reverse that soporific stereotype. These current and upcoming titles may lack the million-dollar casts and eye-popping special effects the big studio pictures trumpet, but they are nonetheless entertaining in the classic movie way: they rattle your bones.

Charles Burnett, who made 1990's domestic drama *To Sleep With Anger*, will release *The Glass Shield*, a police corruption drama. James Gray's debut feature, *Little Odessa* tracks a Russian hit man.

One of the most notable filmmakers in the middle of this new creative confluence is Steven Soderbergh, the maker of 1989's *House of Sex, Lies And Videotape* and 1991's *Kafka*.

Despite the vaguely pretentious title *The Underneath*, Soderbergh's release is a bank heist flick at heart. Based loosely on the 1949 Burt Lancaster movie, *Cross*, *The Underneath*, follows a drifter (Peter Gallagher) whose return to Austin, Texas, rekindles all the problems he once left behind.

One of the movie's more memorable scenes is as nerve-racking as any you might see this spring. Injured in a shooting, a hospitalized Gallagher fears for his safety. He asks a hospital visitor to sit in his room — not to keep him company, but to protect him. Is the visitor just that? Or a bad guy posing? It takes agonising minutes to find out.

Unlike *Sex, Lies And Videotape* or Soderbergh's 1992 work, *King Of The Hill*, *The Underneath* is what Hollywood could call a "genre" film — a work adhering to the storytelling formulas refined through hundreds of dramas.

"Most people who grew up loving those movies liked those kind of films," Soderbergh says.

"The main reason is they're such fertile ground: Drama is about conflict, and these films have lots of conflict on many different levels. So the stage is set to have lots

of subtext and watch these people bounce off each other in really interesting ways."

Not too long ago, some of Hollywood's acclaimed films were genre films — *The French Connection*, *Dirty Harry* and *Serpico* among them.

These days, the major studios have turned the thriller formula into just that: formula. You can see the plot twists a mile away because you've seen them all before.

Other Hollywood films don't have the courage to follow one storytelling premise. Instead of sticking to its killer-virus-wipes-out-the-world hook, *Outbreak* wanders into a story about rogue military agents and helicopter chases. Disclosure isn't just about sexual harassment. It's also about computer hacking and corporate ladder-climbing.

The Underneath, like another arty thriller, *The Usual Suspects*, puts a premium on story — making sure the plot is inventive without being unbelievable. Working on lower budgets, these independent filmmakers don't have to start the cameras the second Bruce Willis or Sharon Stone is available. And since less money is at risk, fewer people will try to interfere.



A scene from *Red*, one of the provocative films delivered by independent filmmakers

"You can't fly blindly forward to a start date because a few actors happen to sign off on an incomplete screenplay — then you often end up with a mishmash," says Bryan Singer, whose whodunit *The Usual Suspects* is due in theatres later this summer. "You have to take care and develop the material and really understand it."

John Dahl has become one of the hottest independent directors even though his genre films were considered too uncommercial to merit a theatrical release. Dahl's *Red Rock West* debuted in home video stores, while his *The Last Seduction* premiered on cable

TV. But critics — and audiences — propelled both films into theatres.

Even with the growing popularity of the arty thriller, these movies retain an offbeat style. *The Underneath* doesn't have a typical, lovable hero, mixes time frames and uses an unusual colour palette. *The Usual Suspects* is so complicated in parts you have to see it twice to catch all the subtleties, and you don't know what's real and what's imagined.

"I'm certainly anticipating that some people will become frustrated by my movie," says Soderbergh. "It may not deliver on that conventional level the way these movies usually do. I

might have stripped it of all its potentially commercial elements, and made it a little more arty than it needed to be."

Singer says movies have become too simple. A little confusion, filmed well, can be much more satisfying than paint-by-the-numbers blockbusters.

"The screenplay should read a bit dense and complex," Singer says. "If you take a simple theme, a quick read — what may seem gratifying at a first glance when shoot is going to be too obvious. You know what's going to happen."

Like *The Underneath*, you don't know what's going to happen in *The Usual Suspects*.

Lone woman finds tough life in Vienna Philharmonic

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

VIENNA — For harpist Anna Lekes, the Vienna Philharmonic's latest tour at Carnegie Hall brought a bouquet few outsiders can appreciate. Finally — after 25 years with the orchestra — her name appeared on the program.

"I don't know how that happened. But I know it was a kick I'm not going to forget anytime soon," Mrs. Lekes says, still cherishing her triumph weeks after the March trip.

People intimate with Vienna's music world understand her joy. The Vienna Philharmonic's main harpist has never been on the programme because she isn't a formal member.

The problem? She's a woman.

In its 153 years, the philharmonic never has admitted women as member musicians, who vote on setting philharmonic policy. The orchestra wasn't swayed when the rival Berlin Philharmonic shattered tradition in 1982 by hiring its first woman.

With good male harpists a rarity, Mrs. Lekes won an audition when she was invited to try out in 1970. Since then, she has played full-time with one of the world's best orchestras, under conducting legends like Sir Georg Solti, Herbert von Karajan, Leonard Bernstein and Claudio Abbado.

But although she shares the music load with her 149 male colleagues, and receives the same pay, she is barred from their club.

She can't expect support from conservative Viennese audiences.

"Admit women?" asked Elfriede Semmler, a fur-clad matron in her late 60s, as she left the gold leaf and marble Musikverein Hall after a recent concert. "That would mean the end of an important Vienna institution. I'm against it."

Most orchestra members acknowledge that quality musicianship has nothing to do with gender. But they, too, invoke tradition, and some offer reasons sure to anger supporters of equality for women.

"Whenever there are women, there are always cabals and intrigues," said Otto Nessizius, a violinist who retired in 1987 but fills in for sick members. "That doesn't happen with us men. We yell at each other to clear the air. There are no resentments that go on for years, like with women."

Mrs. Lekes recalls Austrian conductor Hans

Swarowsky telling her in the early 1970s that "your place is in the kitchen."

Bernstein, however, once called the orchestra bigoted for not fully integrating her.

Only her hands are shown on televised New Year's concerts. The orchestra leadership refused a request to photograph her at rehearsal with the Philharmonic. They also wouldn't comment on why her name was listed on the Carnegie Hall programme along with the men.

The philharmonic's leaders are keen to deflect criticism. They told the Associated Press of an offer to the government to accept women as members if the state subsidised the extra costs.

Austrian maternity laws permit women to stay home for up to two years with pay. The leadership argues that without subsidies of up to \$20 million a year, the philharmonic would be crippled hiring substitutes for stay-at-home women.

With government money sparse, the offer has been refused.

Publicly, Mrs. Lekes, 56, says her "non-person" status is a small price to pay for playing in the Vienna Philharmonic.

"I either respect the way they are, or if I don't, it's up to me to quit," she said during an interview in her living room overlooking the Vienna Woods.

"But where would I go? There is no other orchestra like this one."

Even though other orchestras have women, Mrs. Lekes is an apologist for male colleagues who argue that most women could not cope with the killing pace of tours, concerts, recordings and duty in the pit for the Vienna State Opera.

"Other women have no idea how hard and complicated this life is," she said. "Any woman with a family cannot do this job. There is no room for a family. I was lucky that I was just getting divorced when I came here."

As a sop to modern attitudes, the orchestra leadership says it is working on giving Mrs. Lekes "special membership." But that promise is already three years old, and with the legal retirement age for women 60 — five years earlier than men — Mrs. Lekes is not optimistic about her hopes for breaking down the orchestra's barriers.

"When I go, another woman will come," she said. "It's going to solve itself one way or the other."

Oscar winner Nikita Mikhalkov explores Russia's emotional depths

By Judith Ingram
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his Academy Award-winning film, *Burnt By The Sun*, Nikita Mikhalkov plays a revolutionary hero who overshadows everyone around him — until his young wife's first love arrives.

In life, too, Mikhalkov has an aura of being at the centre of the world — and where Russia's cultural life is concerned, he is. The actor, director, scenarist and producer crowned his reputation as one of Russia's pre-eminent filmmakers on March 27 when he received the Oscar for best foreign film.

"For me, the Oscar isn't just an estimation of my own work, but a sign of a serious future for Russian film in general," he said, settling into an armchair in the lounge of a New York hotel. "I hope that getting the Oscar means that our films are valued and respected in the world, that is, that we return to our prior situation."

Mikhalkov's forebears include the poet Alexander Pushkin, the writer Leo Tolstoy and other

giants of Russian culture. So it is perhaps understandable that he conveys an aristocratic sense of ease with his success — and vents impatience with his peers who see their mission as breaking taboos.

"Too many of my colleagues think it's necessary to shoot this and that that couldn't have been done 10 years ago," he declared. "That's not my goal."

Both Mikhalkov's films and conversation are coloured by a respect for classicism, and a wistful look to the past and to recent times, when Russian cinema enjoyed international renown, and to the years preceding the Bolshevik Revolution and Russia's trajectory towards what Mikhalkov calls its "godless," materialist present.

Yet despite the heavy imprint of the Stalinist era on *Burnt By The Sun*, he insisted, the film is not a historical study. It is a love story, rendered with a miniaturist's devotion to detail.

"I'm interested in seeing a reflection of the sky in a drop of water, not looking at the ocean from outer space," Mikhalkov said.

The film, which opened in New York on April 21 and will open across the nation in the weeks following, portrays one sun-washed summer day in the life of an extended Russian family 60 years ago.

Sergei Kotov, a renowned hero of Russia's 1917 revolution, his wife Maroussia (Ingeborga Dapkounaitė), their 6-year-old daughter Nadia (played by Mikhalkov's young daughter, also called Nadia), and assorted grandmothers, uncles and friends are relaxing at the family's country house.

The family's tranquility is shattered by a private visit to deliver a public message: Maroussia's former lover, Mitya, who had emigrated to Paris and is working for the Soviet secret police, pays a surprise call to inform Kotov that his world is about to come crashing down.

The year is 1936, and Stalin's purges are in full throttle. The film intersperses fond scenes of family life with hints of the tragic fate awaiting Kotov: During a love scene, the camera cuts away to a large, black automobile — the secret police's much-feared "black raven" — parked at the end of the

drive.

Up to the last moment, Kotov depends on his role in the Bolshevik Revolution and service to Stalin to save him.

"The character is tragic because he created with his own hands, along with his comrades, the sun that burned him," Mikhalkov said.

After Stalin's death in 1953, Soviet politicians began chipping away at his almost godlike image. Over the last decade, starting with Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, a flood of previously banned Russian memoirs and historical research has revealed the huge dimensions of the dictator's crimes.

So the general outline of Kotov's story — his odyssey from hero of the revolution to enemy of the people, and the presumed disintegration of his family — is already familiar to Russian audiences.

Mikhalkov was most interested in breaking new emotional ground. "The picture has a very great visceral effect on people. Maybe that's its strength and its significance," he said.

With feigned horror hardly masking his pride, he told of meeting with an

audience of 3,000 in Riga, Latvia, shortly after the film made its 1994 debut.

"A little old lady came up to the stage and asked me to pick her up, because she couldn't get up by herself. I brought her up on stage, and she came only up to here," Mikhalkov recalled, sitting on the edge of his chair and drawing a line with his hand along the bottom of his rib-cage.

"She held me tight and cried, 'Nadia — that's me' — there was absolute shock in the hall, people started crying, and I just stood there," he said.

Along with Kotov and the other characters in the film, Nadia was fictitious. But Stalin's youngest victims, who spent their youth in labour camps and exile, clearly could see their own reflection in her soon-to-be-crushed innocence.

Mikhalkov himself came of age after Stalin was dead. And quite unlike either Kotov or his daughter, the 50-year-old actor and director has found favour with fate.

The son of the author of the Soviet anthem — and the beneficiary of the artistic license his family's political loyalty be-

queathed him — Mikhalkov is perhaps Russia's only living filmmaker who has been able to shoot the movies he wants without bowing either to the Soviet-era censor or succumbing to the financing crunch that has reduced Russian film production to a trickle today.

In his next movie, *The Barber Of Siberia*, Mikhalkov will return to his favoured theme of love. Two other scripts in the works — for films on Dmitrii Donskoy, the 14th-century Muscovite prince who beat back the Mongols, and Nikolai II, Russia's last tsar — reflect the patriotism that inspires him as surely as sentiment, and has landed him squarely in the camp of President Boris Yeltsin's nationalist opposition.

Like his aristocratic forebears, Mikhalkov said, his mission is to give something back to his homeland.

"I would gladly give my Oscar to Russia, if that would help give birth to the notion of national, cultural and historical value," he said. "To work in Russia is the greatest gift one can give the country."

documentary — *The Nature Of The*

8:30 *Beethoven Theater*

9:10 *Jack The Ripper*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Seaforth*

12:00 *Louise And Dave*

Wednesday, May 3

2:00 *The Flintstones*

2:30 *Hat Stars*

3:00 *Beakman's World*

4:00 *Movies, Games And Video*

4:30 *Amazing Stories*

4:30 *Tarzan*

5:00 *French Programme*

6:00 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

6:30 *Marvellous Machine — The*

8:30 *GP*

9:15 *Berlin Breaks*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Prism*

10:40 *Handel Dead*

12:00 *Keeping It Appearances*

First 'television war' a very different story for Vietnamese film-makers

By Robert Temple
Agence France Presse

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam's conflict was the first television war, brought into the homes of millions of Americans by reporters who created heroic images both of themselves and "the story of the decade."



North Vietnamese photographers 'had to be soldiers first, and then journalists' (AFP photo)

But it was a very different story for the Vietnamese who reported on the war for the Northern side from the early 1960s until the fall of Saigon 20 years ago on April 30, 1975.

"You were there as a soldier first, then as a journalist," said Pham Khac, a cameraman who filmed most of the major events of modern Vietnamese history. "You always carried a gun as well as a camera."

Khac's numerous close shaves earned him the nickname "the survivor" as well as many scars from bullets and shrapnel injuries, sustained as he filmed the war for 15 years from 1960 up to the fall of Saigon.

No records have been kept of how many Vietnamese journalists and film-makers died in the conflict but Khac and Nguyen Thun, a movie director who headed a documentary unit during the war, both said numerous colleagues were killed.

Film-makers often worked in appalling conditions. While western reporters remained in Saigon or helicoptered back at night to send their stories, Khac often had to walk for two and half months along the heavily bombed Ho Chi Minh Trail, carrying his camera and equipment.

Footage was often processed with the most primitive techniques but despite the poor quality, the films are a dramatic record of the war that provided rousing propaganda for open-air village cinemas across the country.

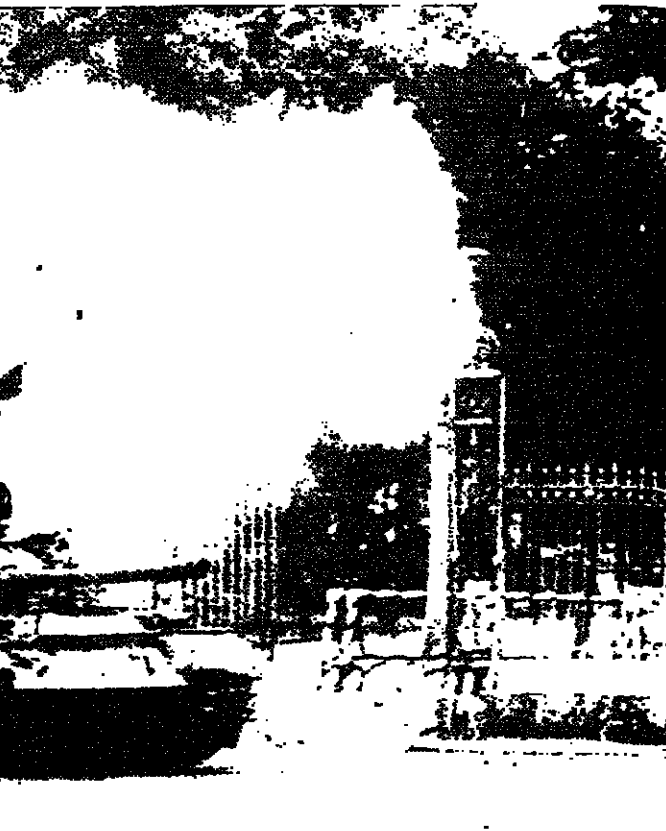
Most Vietnamese film-makers and journalists recognise that times have changed and now look back a bit sheepishly at the heavy Soviet style of some of their works.

"I'd make it a little differently now," said Pham Ngoc Quynh after watching his film of U.S. prisoners of war marching out of the "Hanoi Hilton" jail while a crowd chanted slogans against "Yankee dogs."

Quynh expresses considerable pride in his works but little desire to watch them now. "As a director I treasure the films but most of the time



This early April 30, 1975 photo taken in Saigon shows a North Vietnamese tank passing the gates of the Independence Palace. Many Vietnamese cameramen died while covering the war on the Northern side from the early 1960s until the end of the war (AFP photo)



This early April 30, 1975 photo taken in Saigon shows a North Vietnamese tank passing the gates of the Independence Palace. Many Vietnamese cameramen died while covering the war on the Northern side from the early 1960s until the end of the war (AFP photo)

in courtrooms, hardly the way former inmates of the notoriously brutal jail remember their incarceration.

Quynh expresses considerable pride in his works but little desire to watch them now. "As a director I treasure the films but most of the time

I just want to forget about the past."

Anguish from the horrors of the war still haunts film-makers, many of whom now occupy top posts in Vietnam's state media. "It overwhelms me with sadness to think of those days," said Thu, head of a film company

and a member of parliament. "I lost too many friends in the war," he said, recalling his sadness at sending crew, off to Cu Chi, an area of intense battles outside Saigon where guerrillas lived in a warren of tunnels.

"When they started fighting in the Cu Chi tunnels, we sent a crew of seven down there to film. They were all killed so we sent seven more and then more after that."

"After 1975 when the northern troops took control of Cu Chi, we found out that not one of them had survived."

Women's international circus in the spotlight

By Pia Ohlin
Agence France Presse

STOCKHOLM — The first all-female circus featuring the world's top artists is pulling in the crowds with spectacular acts in Stockholm.

The Circus Princess (Princess Circus) is making Swedish headlines with sellout performances. The event has drawn a stunned adult crowd, dominated by women, students and couples without children.

Glowing reviews hail the show as magical, poetic, energetic and artistic. "A breath of fresh air," raved one daily.

The stellar cast boasts Canadian twin trapeze artists, Chinese acrobats, a Hungarian contortionist, Argentine gauchos, and American Diane Tell, who shoots an apple off her own head with precision archery.

French dove trainer Regina Bouglione, a Russian highwire ballet dancer and an unconventional hula hoop artist from Spain are just a few of the acts.

At the final performance, a jury including Sweden's Princess Christina will crown the 1995 World Circus Princess.

Brothers Henry and Robert Bronett, who took over Sweden's Circus Scott when their father died last year, decided to

organise the event as a tribute to him. He had been toying with the idea of a female circus for 20 years.

"We had often talked about how to rejuvenate the circus. Our grand-mother headed Circus Scott for 25 years, so it was only natural to have an all-female circus," Henry Bronett told AFP.

"Men can do incredible feats at the circus, but the women, they do the same acts with grace and style," he explained. In the Princess Circus, which runs here for a week only and will not tour, the only men are assistants.

There are no huffing and puffing, muscle-

flexing beefcakes in this ring. Instead, physical endurance and strength is highlighted with elegance and beauty.

One such act is the Stebens Sisters, 20-year olds Karyne and Sarah from Montreal who shine on one trapeze. With delicate arabesques and intricate, strength moves, the audience gasps as they catch each other with bare feet.

For the Stebens, the thought of working in an all-female circus was "exhilarating."

"We've always dreamt of it. We want to show other women that they can achieve their dreams too," Sarah said.

China's new rich pay big money for child education

By Alison Leung
Reuters

HONG KONG — Just like parents everywhere, Zhu Xiaoying, a village woman in southern China's Guangdong province, wants only the best for her son.

For her, that means paying 180,000 yuan (\$21,350) up front, the equivalent of 25 years of an average worker's wages in nearby Guangzhou, to send her six-year-old son Chen Juhui to the private "Guangdong Country Garden School" just south of the city in Shunde.

The school, which opened in September, says it is a non-profit venture and that the money will be returned to Chen Juhui's parents when he leaves.

"We were only taught up to primary school," said Zhu, who with her husband is in her early 30s. "We're pinning our hopes on our children."

Zhu's generation found their schooling all but eradicated by the 1966-77 Cultural Revolution when students were too busy persecuting, beating up, or killing their teachers and headmasters to do any study apart from reading the thoughts of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Now more and more parents in China say although they have been successful in creating wealthy since the launch of economic reforms in 1978, they realise how much they have missed out on life, including their business life, by missing out on school.

Zhu said that if her son does well at Country Garden, which currently takes children from age three to 14, she will send her two younger children to the school, even though the entrance fee has since been raised to 300,000 yuan (\$35,600).

The school is just south of Guangzhou, China's most prosperous city, where workers earn an average 600 yuan (\$70) a month but where many are still struggling well below the poverty line.

Visitors to the city, a two-and-a-half hour train ride from Hong Kong, can see hundreds of barefoot, sick-looking children begging outside the rail station, in front of hotels and on street corners.

A Beijing educational researcher visiting Country Garden denied that it and schools like it would intensify the contrast between rich and poor in China, where a one-child-per-family policy has been criticised in the West for spawning a generation of spoiled brats.

"The gap between rich and poor is an existing social problem," he said. "It could happen in any school."

Liao Bingquan, Country Garden's superintendent, said his school was the natural product of China's free-market reforms.

"We follow (paramount leader) Deng Xiaoping's education policy — face modernisation, face the world and face the future," Mr. Liao said.

"Some people in the country became wealthy, especially those in the Pearl River Delta, but they are too busy to educate their kids. This school is for them."

Zhu is a good example. Her husband runs a car dealership and she works in a can factory, operated by her village of Nan Hai, earning about 4,000 yuan (\$475) a month.

"Money is not a problem," she said. "It is enough to pay the fines for flouting the one-child rule and not have to worry about it."

Country Garden is run by the Country Garden Property Development Co Ltd, controlled by the local government of Beijiao County. It is one of 19 private schools in the province demanding fees ranging from 150,000 yuan (\$17,800) to 320,000 yuan (\$38,000).

"We will return an equal amount to their parents when students leave the school and there is no extra charge for room and board or tuition," Mr. Liao said.

He said the school provided a mix of Chinese and Western classes, encouraging students to be creative rather than just pass exams. "Chinese education, which focuses on grades just to get into the famous universities, is imperfect," he said.

Teachers at Country Garden said it provided the kind of facilities a government school could not begin to offer — computers in the classroom, a

campus covering more than 25 hectares (60 acres) and eventually including four swimming pools, one heated, and even its own observatory.

The teachers earn some 2,250 yuan (\$270) a month, well above the 600 yuan (\$70) to 1,500 yuan (\$180) their counterparts earn in public schools elsewhere in China.

Mr. Liao said a number of headmasters had come to Guangdong from Beijing to set up private schools because they saw the province's wealth providing their schools with higher autonomy and better facilities.

"We are the group of people hoping to walk a bit ahead (in China's education reform)," said Mr. Liao, a former textbook editor.

Demand for places has been higher than expected. Country Garden has more than 1,400 pupils and will have more than 3,000 when it is fully up

and running. Twelve more schools offering similar schemes and approved by the provincial government are in the pipeline. But no more applications are to be accepted and Guangdong officials say they will strictly monitor the schools' development.

The fees have raised concerns in Beijing where some senior officials have branded them "aristocratic schools."

"I totally agree that aristocratic schools should not be built in China, a Socialist country," Mr. Liao said. "But a high fee school is not necessarily an aristocratic school."

The visiting researcher from Beijing said a school should be judged on its education objectives, not on its fees.

"You see, this is wonderful," he said. "Such a beautiful school and it doesn't cost the country a penny."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ALIMINARY
By Joan D. Berbrich

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Diagramless 21 x 21
By Roger Coburn

Diagramless crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Last Week's Cryptograms

- 1. Are hobos still making chalk marks on curbs in front of houses good for handouts?
- 2. Talk about today's dehauchery: How about all the meeting and kissing that went on comin' through the rye?
- 3. Good example of badly mixed metaphors: 'It's like shooting fish in a barrel of monkeys.'
- 4. What a weird duet it could be to pair a tuba with a piccolo.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1.VTZE JTCAM HTJ LYQ ET CBE LDB AKO
BDRIKZ HDPJPR DA TZQZ ET QERDIEZ
ELR RTAMEBE AKOBYVYZE ZTCEK DA ELE
PDEJ.

—By Earl Ireland

2.SOURC, YZOAQUWHR QRQWAM UNJCAMWY
KWNCHYC, ZQLA IWA RQKCB MN
CJLIQMWTQBPB YCHAOZC LOHYI QRU SOUP.
—By Rita Salento

3.EH SHR YGRE CHOP ZLIATS ZTAE GR
OKPATCTIAPD PRELS GO FLOPS GROPALE
HY FLOPS: —By Frank N. Stein

4.PELWN WUGDOWWT FALLDVEDACWN OA
KIDRN KYDNHUP PAIGN MW MEN FALLDOWN
FARAVVER NWVDUG WYTAY. —By Ed Huddleston

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Peru. It begins in the lowlands of north-east Peru at the juncture of the Marañon and Ucayali rivers which rise in the Andes Mountains.
2. It is made up of a nucleus of only one proton around which moves only one electron. Every atom contains a nucleus that is made up of protons, and neutrons around which electrons move.
3. H.
4. Evolution. The theory of evolution through gradual change.
5. (i) Switch off the current and/or drag the patient away WITHOUT TOUCHING HIM DIRECTLY.
(ii) Call a doctor.
(iii) If unconscious, apply the kiss of life or some kind of artificial respiration until told to stop by a doctor.
(iv) Keep patient cool and quiet.

PUZZLES

THREE + THREE MAKE TWENTY

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| CANAPE | GADFLY |
| ENDEAR | CATNAP |
| CARROT | ASHORE |
| ARMPIT | ANYWAY |
| FURROW | FORGET |
| BATTEN | FATHER |
| BETRAY | BEGONE |
| ARCTIC | SADDEN |
| REDACT | DAMAGE |
| OUTLAW | CAMERA |

ILO warns social security systems could collapse

GENEVA (R) — Government welfare and social security systems could collapse if older workers went on being pressed to retire early to create jobs for the young unemployed, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Wednesday.

But the U.N. agency warned that switching to private pension schemes, which also involve high administrative costs and rely on government tax concessions, provided no panacea.

In its World Labour Report 1995, ILO called for a flexible retirement age, arguing that early retirement buyouts in Western countries had failed to reduce unemployment significantly.

Public pension expenditure, already the largest single item in the public budget in

most industrialised countries, will be even more costly as people retire earlier and live longer.

By the year 2025, about 14 per cent of world population will be aged 60 years or over, according to ILO. In Western Europe, 26 per cent of the population will fall into the category concerning their abilities," the ILO report said.

For instance, the number of Dutch men employed between the ages of 60 and 64 has fallen by 77 per cent since 1960 to just 18 per cent. Similar drops were posted over the same time period among men in Austria (81 per cent) and in France (74 per cent).

However, in Japan and Sweden, older men have not dropped out of the active

labour force before reaching retirement age.

About 75.6 per cent — or three in four — Japanese men that age still work. This is due to low employment, retirees being rehired by companies and a large number of family-owned firms.

Canada and the United States, which have rates of 47.6 per cent and 54.9 per cent of men between 60 and 64 still working, face less of an unemployment problem than Western Europe. Costly buyouts and disability pensions are used less often, as well.

ILO said incentives for early retirement should be removed and full pension rights based on the number of years of contribution instead of the worker's age, to allow flexibility.

Turkey signs deal for \$500 million loan facility

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and 18 Western and Turkish banks signed an accord Wednesday for a \$500 million loan facility, the treasury said.

The country's first international borrowing deal since March 1994 consists of a \$245 million syndicated loan and a \$255 million floating rate note (FRN) issue, the treasury said.

Turkey, hit by a financial crisis and successive downgrades in its credit rating earlier last year, has been out of international debt markets since then.

But treasury officials are planning to borrow around \$2 billion this year and say Wednesday's deal will pave the way for another borrowing later this year probably at a lower cost.

The signing was completed by an exchange of faxed letters, the treasury added.

The syndicated loan and the note issue carry an interest of six-month LIBOR plus 175 basis points. Turkey also pays a relatively high fee of 345 basis points.

Cementing Jordan-Israel peace — who will pay?

AMMAN (R) — Plans to develop the rift valley between Jordan and Israel, seen as a practical and symbolic cementing of their peace treaty, leave unanswered the question of who will pay the multi-billion-dollar bill.

A three-day meeting which ended Wednesday, designed to prepare proposals for a larger conference in six months, produced conflicting ideas of financing alongside the sweeping plans for canals, dams and desalination plants.

A diplomat, predicting a mixture of "innovative" private funding and public money, said bluntly of the source of funds: "Nobody knows."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a news conference the vast amounts would come solely from private investors.

"I think an early estimate (of the cost) was \$25 billion," Mr. Peres said, citing a figure far above even Jordan's ambitious hopes. "We feel that banks, insurance companies, corporations, will make consortiums to invest."

"The idea is that the private companies will invest and the respective governments will guarantee," he said.

In a world where governments are increasingly tight-fisted, private funding sources are appealing.

The U.S. government, an enthusiastic backer of the scheme and the sponsor of the Amman meeting, is unlikely to ask a hostile U.S. Congress for more foreign aid when members want to cut existing programmes.

But it is unclear what enthusiasm exists among private investors for putting money into Jordanian infrastructure like highways and railways, or how much risk foreign governments want to assume by guaranteeing debts owed to their companies.

Certainly some presentations at the meeting raised doubts.

"It is important to the success of the rift valley programme that public funding sources are dedicated to the programme over the long term," said a consultant's paper on transportation.

It said private investors may wait until "the region becomes more secure" — a reminder that much of the Middle East remains poor, with a history of political instability.

That legacy, coupled with World Bank forecasts that the region could have the world's slowest per capita growth in the next decade, prompted a reminder from U.S. investment bank Salomon Brothers that investors might find more attractive places than the inhospitable valley between Jordan and Israel.

"The economics of infrastructure finance projects are usually uncertain, particularly if the projects are undertaken in a developing region such as the Jordan rift valley," its presentation said.

The scheme, including a canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea that most diplomats privately doubt is realistic, is to show Jordanians the benefits of ending their 46-year struggle with Israel.

With grumbling about unfulfilled expectations rising, Crown Prince Hassan told the conference that even if plans proceed, nothing will be completed for at least 18 months.

The prince, a chief promoter of the scheme, listed social rather than economic priorities when addressing the businessmen who are looking for financial seasons to undertake projects.

"My interest is basically to provide jobs. My interest is to provide participation opportunities for thousands of people who are looking to the return of the peace process," he said. "We are not talking here solely about business."

Bundesbank criticises IMF lending policies

FRANKFURT (R) — The German Bundesbank, in a report coinciding with this week's meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, was sharply critical Wednesday of the fund's lending policies.

The Bundesbank's 1994 annual report said the IMF was not adequately monitoring the economic performance of the countries to which it extended credits.

It also said a strong rise in IMF lending was not in line with its role of helping countries overcome short-term balance of payments problems. It repeated its rejection of a general increase in the IMF's own funding.

The central bank report said persistently high unemployment was the main economic challenge in Germany.

It also called on European countries to step up efforts to meet Maastricht treaty criteria for European monetary union and said the failure of some countries to tackle their budget problems was at the root of recent currency turbulence.

Referring to the IMF, the Bundesbank said the fund should stick to monitoring members' economic policies, advising them and providing finance for temporary payments problems.

"The strongly expanded financial involvement of the IMF in the form of long-term adjustment programmes distinctly aimed at growth is hard to bring into accord with this understanding of its role," the Bundesbank said.

The Bundesbank conceded the IMF was trying to improve its economic surveillance and advice, but picked out Mexico's recent economic crisis as an example where things had gone wrong.

"The most recent currency crisis in Mexico is an indication of inadequacies in the economic surveillance of member countries by the IMF," it said.

As the IMF meeting was getting underway in Washington, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer underscored this position Tuesday, saying Mexican events illustrated the need for a more effective economic early warning system.

Germany had strong reservations about a \$17.8 billion IMF loan to Mexico, part of an international rescue package, and the report repeated Bundesbank objections to special IMF facilities aimed at coping with sudden crises.

Introducing new ways for the IMF to provide quick

loans to counter sudden capital outflows could threaten financial market stability by undermining the discipline of market participants.

Borrowers and lenders would check their international credit business less rigorously if they expected the IMF to give substantial and quick support whenever a debtor country encountered sudden problems, it added.

German objections to the Mexico package and to a bid by IMF management to increase its own funds have drawn heavy criticism from United States, main architect of the Mexico deal.

The report also underscored Bundesbank opposition to a bid by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus to increase the organisation's own funding, calling the move unnecessary.

Dollar stages mild rally despite G-7 doubts

LONDON (R) — The dollar staged a mild recovery Wednesday in cautious reaction to the Group of Seven industrial nations' verbal support for the currency, which has fallen 20 per cent against the yen this year.

But market analysts said the rally could be short-lived and were disappointed by the failure of the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting Tuesday to offer concrete remedies to cure recent turbulence.

By late morning, the dollar had strengthened to 1.3829 marks and 83.33 yen from 1.3707 marks and 82.03 in late European dealings Tuesday.

The dollar's spurt came as buying by U.S. funds and other long-term players helped reinforce a growing view that it may have found a base against the yen and the mark, dealers said.

"The dollar's performance suggests that it is looking for a base," said Stuart Thomson, chief economist at Nikko Europe in London. "It's likely to be short-term but there is clearly more of a two-way market now."

The new-found strength was helped by remarks from German Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen Krupp who said there was no reason to rule out speculation about a cut in interest rates.

At a Hamburg news conference, Mr. Krupp, who has regularly called for lower interest rates, also said Germany's current discount rate at four per cent was "not particularly low."

The economic policymakers declared in Washington that the dollar's rapid decline was unjustified and called for an "orderly reversal" of recent trends. The finance ministers and central bank governors agreed to take longer-term steps, including reducing budget deficits and trade imbalances.

Traders remained wary of the potential for central bank intervention to support the dollar.

As currency markets took stock of the Washington meeting, the initial reaction of economists was that its communiqué had offered little to help the dollar and traders would be unimpressed for the long term.

"The market is trying to gauge where the dollar is going from here," said Brian Martin, chief economist of the foreign exchange division at BZW in London.

Russian debt to be \$130b by end of '95

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's foreign debts, including loans inherited from the former Soviet Union, will be around \$130 billion by the end of 1995, Interfax News Agency Wednesday quoted Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov as saying.

Mr. Panskov, speaking to the agency during the spring meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, said debt rescheduling was essential for Russia but gave no details of the terms Moscow hoped to win from creditors.

"We want payments on our debts to be even and interest rates to fall," Mr. Panskov said. "I think this is realistic."

Russian officials put total external debt currently at around \$120 billion, up from \$113 billion at the start of 1994.

Russia has already won a series of rescheduling deals with the Paris Club of creditor states and is currently seeking a longer-term agreement to give it extra time to pay.

"Our task is to make sure that debt rescheduling has a long-term perspective and the Russian government knows the shape of future debt repayments," Mr. Panskov said. "This is essential for a competent drafting of the budget and economic forecasts."

Mr. Panskov said he hoped interest payments could fall after a Paris Club deal was reached.

"I can only say that if in May we sign a debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, then interest rates on debts will fall by 60 per cent or more."

Mr. Panskov said he planned to hold bilateral talks with German Finance Minister Theo Waigel during the Washington meeting. Germany is Russia's biggest foreign creditor.

Meanwhile, Russia's foreign minister has encouraged U.S. bankers to accelerate partnerships with Russian companies and boost investment in them.

Andrei Kozyrev told a group of bankers in New York that while barriers to Western-style commerce, such as wide-spread corruption and crime, are a problem in Russia, many opportunities exist for foreign investors.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out early today and handle your affairs constructively since much can be accomplished. Handle emergencies within your residence tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever your aims may be about gaining a greater abundance today, you are able to progress at such easier tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find many ways of gaining personal aims which mean a good deal today to you now. Take time to improve your health and appearance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get together with experts today and decide upon a new course which can bring you greater success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact your most brilliant friends today and together go after the pursuits which most activate you. Be sociable during your spare time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Making a good impression on higher-ups with your ability is wise today. Get your credit and public image improved.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact those who can further your ambitions today and ideas and get fine results. Intuitive capabilities do not work well tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be very ingenious at business affairs today so handle them as they arise. Take time to please your loved one tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Fast-thinking persons are about today who can give you right answers to any enigmas you may have.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are very good at organisation and this is a particularly fine day today for such. Handle important business matters.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go out for the pleasure which is very much on your mind today and dress nicely so you feel more sure of yourself.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get all those duties, both big and small, well-handled at your home today so that everything will function properly.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 28, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to use much tact in dealing with others today and care in motion of all kind. Make social contacts with close associates tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be too hasty in coming to decisions where finances are concerned, otherwise you can make costly errors today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't make changes at home today without first getting the approval of kin, and get it by the use of diplomacy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may have inner conflict which could foolishly cause you to spoil present set-up, so calm yourself and be poised.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid that friend who could be upsetting to you today and you save the relationship. Plan what you truly want in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is important you handle outside affairs today in a well-regulated manner, even though you are thinking of making big changes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are thinking of taking a little trip to gain the benefits which are slow in coming in, but be patient a little longer.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel that someone is trying to take advantage of you, today but be sure before you try to retaliate in any way.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may be that an associate is acting in a flighty and irresponsible manner today, but this will soon change, so be patient.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel that you may have taken on more tasks than you can handle, but it will work systematically today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may be in a bad mood and don't want to work, so go out for some amusement which is not expensive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The situation at home may be difficult, but do nothing which can make it more so. Establish greater harmony today.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

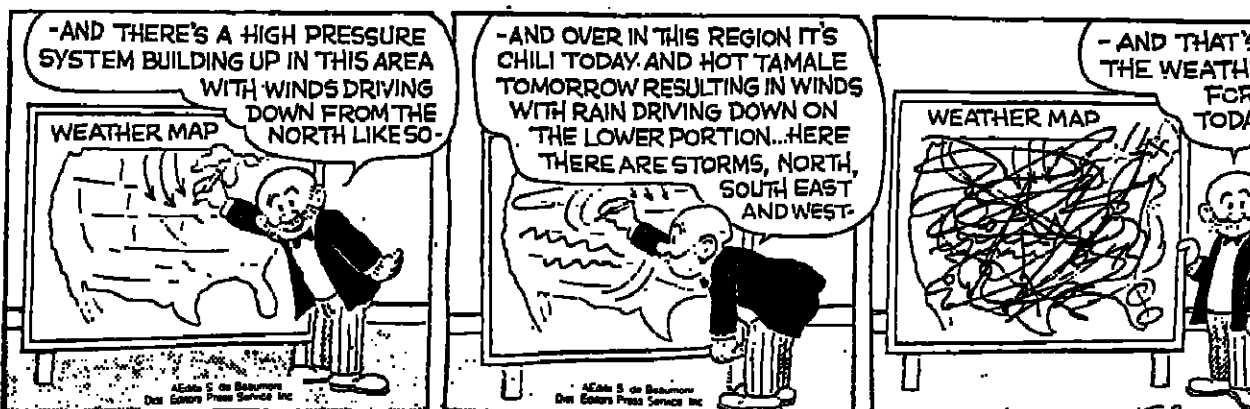
Peanuts



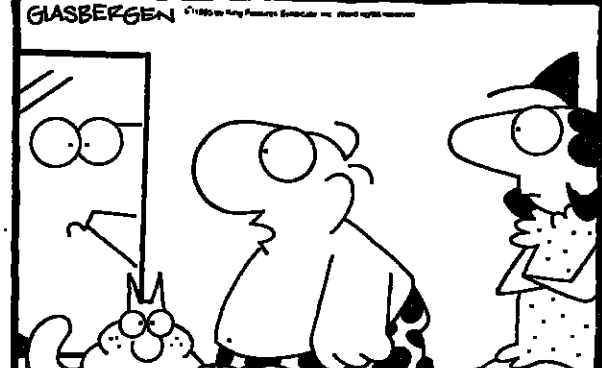
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARSYC
GINOW
VURSCY
ROOLBE

Look at how high it is. And fluffy.

WHAT THE WINNING CAKE DID FOR HER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O" TO THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CAKED PUPPY DITHER BANISH
Answer: After spring planting he was — BUSHED

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bronfield

ACROSS

1. Use the alloys
2. Geo
3. All hands
4. Seldom beat
5. Chapin
6. Czech river
7. Conductor
8. George
9. Player piano
10. More bomb
11. Quartered
12. Irish painter
13. — Annals
14. Persian Gulf
15. country
16. Watching
17. Puma
18. Sickly
19. substances
20. Jacob's brother
21. Bush
22. Ranch action
23. Will call
24. Librarian
25. collections
26. Bakery items
27. Bradley and
28. Shant
29. NO native
30. GA river
31. Serna
32. fragment var.
33. Evening party
34. Sea-TV show
35. Silvery
36. — Jasee (old command)
37. Cicero
38. Petal
39. Loosened
40. — Brinker
41. Ophidians
42. Entitled certain
43. light
44. Certain
45. Musical play
46. Mighty
47. Strides
48. Na Na
49. Na Na
50. Na Na
51. Na Na
52. Na Na
53. Na Na
54. Na Na
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56. Na Na
57. Na Na
58. Na Na
59. Na Na
60. Na Na

DOWN

1. Use the alloys
2. Geo
3. All hands
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ey signs deal for million loan facility

(R) — Turkey and 18 Western and Islamic countries agreed Wednesday for a \$300 million loan facility.

The deal, which is the first international borrowing deal since the country's first international borrowing deal in 1992, consists of a \$245 million syndicated loan and a floating rate note (FRN) issue, the deal was completed by an exchange of letters.

The deal was completed by an exchange of letters between the Jordanian Ministry of Finance and the consortium of lenders, which includes the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Arab Bank.

The deal was completed by an exchange of letters between the Jordanian Ministry of Finance and the consortium of lenders, which includes the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Arab Bank.

HOROSCOPE

AST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1995

Person: Astrologer: Carol Rignier Fournier

21 to April 21: Get out early today and leave your house before 7 a.m. to avoid traffic.

21 to May 21: Whatever you do today, you are able to progress.

21 to June 21: You find many ways to get things done today and you are very busy.

21 to July 21: You are very busy today and you are very busy.

21 to August 21: You are very busy today and you are very busy.

21 to September 21: You are very busy today and you are very busy.

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No U.S.-Jordan negotiations yet on free trade agreement

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the United States agree in principle to seek a free trade agreement between them, but actual negotiations on the accord could start only after the Kingdom goes through the process of amending some key legislation and finalises its accession to international trade conventions, highly informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, were commenting on reports appearing in the local press that Jordanian and American officials were already engaged in negotiations on a free trade agreement and that the Jordanian market could soon be flooded with American products.

"One report even suggested that Jordan will allow duty-free status of American cars in return for the U.S. granting a similar treatment to Jordanian exports," said one source.

"There is no basic logic to such a presumption," said the source. "The imbalance in trade between Jordan and the U.S. is so vast that there cannot be such preferential treatment."

The source noted that Jordanian exports to the U.S. were worth "just a few million dollars," and the Kingdom's imports of American products were more than \$300 million. "In such a situation, what logic is there to suggest that there could be open free trade between the two sides?"

The idea of a free-trade accord between Jordan and the U.S. was raised during the visits here last year and again this year of American Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

"There is an agreement in principle that the two countries should work on signing a free trade accord, but it is a long way ahead," said another source. "Jordan has to change some of its key laws as well as restructure its approach to international trade before the U.S. would seriously consider an agreement."

The sources said Jordan has to start the process of negotiating a free-trade accord with the U.S. by introducing major changes to its copyright and intellectual property rights.

"Then the process would involve Jordan finalising its entry to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs), and then Jordan can seek to start negotiations with the U.S.," said another source.

Jordan does have a relatively strong law on copyright and intellectual property rights, but, international experts say, there are key gaps in the legislation that are incompatible with most international conventions.

"Copyrights and intellectual property rights are very important for the United States, just as they are for the European countries," said the source.

"The very essence of changing the law is that the government is fully committing itself to upholding those rights, and this has high significance in terms of the political will to free trade," according to the source.

In the realm of international free trade conventions, Jordan sought first to enter GATT, but then, under expert opinion, decided to apply to join the more advanced and broader WTO, which will replace GATT by 1997.

But no firm steps have been taken to advance the Jordanian application, but Singapore, which chairs the GATT/WTO committee in charge of negotiating the Kingdom's accession, has offered to accelerate the process. This would mean Jordan becoming a member of WTO sometime in 1997.

The U.S. is a prime mover behind the WTO, and is unlikely to agree to enter into negotiations on a free trade accord with Jordan until the Kingdom joins the conventions, the sources said.

As such, said the sources, there is no negotiation between Jordan and the U.S. in this regard.

Lebanese banks sign trailblazing merger

BEIRUT (R) — One Lebanese bank will take over another in the first deal under a new law designed to encourage bank mergers, the chairman of one of them said Tuesday.

Banque Beyrouth pour le Commerce (BBC) will take over Security Bank of Lebanon, previously owned by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI),

BBC's Jordanian Chairman Rifat El Nimer told Reuters. BCCI collapsed in July 1991 amid one of the biggest bank frauds in history but Security Bank has carried on trading and currently has four branches and 82 employees.

The agreement states that BBC will receive a 19 billion

Lebanese lira (\$11.6 million) loan from the central bank to assist the takeover. Interest on the eight-year loan is set at 60 per cent of the interest rate on 12-month treasury bills.

Under the agreement signed on April 8, BBC will take responsibility for Security Bank's debts totalling \$6.9 million, the agreement states.

The merger is the first under a law passed in 1993 to facilitate and encourage mergers among Lebanon's 80 banks, some of which are too small to be effective in the economy.

"The agreement will be finalised in June," Mr. Nimer said. "However we consider the initial agreement to be final since 90 per cent of the Security Bank shareholders agreed to the merger."

A joint meeting of shareholders will ratify the accord in June after the central bank accepts audits of the two banks now being prepared by accountants.

BBC, which has 15 branches and 338 employees, is planning to increase its nominal capital, currently at eight billion Lebanese lira (\$5 million), Mr. Nimer said.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York CLOSING 26/4/95	Tokyo CLOSING 26/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6123	1.6159**
Deutsche Mark	1.7720	1.7628
Swiss Franc	1.7314	1.7304**
French Franc	4.8360	4.8360**
Japanese Yen	82.10	82.75
European Currency Unit	1.3360	1.3370**

** USD vs STG

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

European Options 60 and 90 days GMT

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

1.3620/30

1.3824/34

1.5482/92

1.1430/40

28.45/49

Wimbledon prize money hits new record

WIMBLEDON (AP) — With nearly \$10 million in prize money on offer this year, Wimbledon's top official says the players are worth "every penny" — even if the tennis can be boring.

The All England Club announced Tuesday that prize money for this summer's championships will total a record \$6 million, equivalent to \$9.6 million at current exchange rates.

The figure in sterling represents a six per cent increase — double the rate of inflation — over last year's purse of \$5.68 million. Because of currency fluctuations, the dollar figure has gone up 13 per cent on last year's total of \$8.52 million.

The men's champion will receive \$365,000 (\$584,000). If Pete Sampras retains his title, he will get \$67,000 more than last year.

The women's champion will take home \$328,000 (\$524,000), compared with the \$310,000 (\$465,000)

check Conchita Martinez received for winning the 1994 title.

Total prize money for men will be \$3.2 million (\$5.1 million) and \$2.5 million (\$4 million) for women.

Wimbledon, like the French Open, offers more money to the men than the women. The two other Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian and U.S. Opens, offer equal prize money.

"We look at that every year and we make a conscious decision" to maintain different prizes, All England Club Chairman John Curry said.

Curry rejected suggestions that prize money was spiraling out of control.

"A lot of people have that view, but I don't," he said. "I believe that the top players are worth every penny. Think of how much top businessmen are paid and how much pop stars receive. At Wimbledon the players are the

best in the world and they deserve the best from us."

"The increase is a function of competitive pressures and the attraction of the game," he said. "It's what you can afford to pay. But the most important factor is to ensure that Wimbledon's premier position is maintained."

Curry acknowledged that many people find the tennis at Wimbledon to be tedious, with few rallies or subtle shots on the fast grass courts. In last year's final, Sampras beat Goran Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-6, 6-0 in a slam-bang match dominated by big serves.

"Yes, some of the tennis was boring," Curry acknowledged. "The final was not the greatest for the man in the street. But if you are an aficionado of tennis, it was exciting."

This year's tournament will be held from June 26 to July 9.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon's new No. 1 court is beginning to take shape in Aorangi Park, adjacent to Centre Court. The court is scheduled to be ready for use in 1997, while two new outside courts should be finished by 1998.

The area has been turned into a massive construction site, with workers putting up temporary tents for food villages, shops and concession stands. Two huge cranes will still tower over the grounds when fans arrive this summer.

"It may not look as attractive but it will be business as usual," Curry said. "Although there will be some

evidence of development work, the 1995 championships will proceed in the normal way. Every effort is being made to ensure that any inconvenience is kept to the absolute minimum for

players, fans and those who work at the event."

The next stage will be expansion of the Centre Court and construction of a new facilities building, expected to be completed by 2000.

Wimbledon prize money

Men's Singles

Winner: \$584,000
Runner-up: \$292,000
Semifinalists: \$146,000
Quarterfinalists: \$75,520
Round of 16 losers: \$40,880
Round of 32 losers: \$23,648
Round of 64 losers: \$14,304
First round losers: \$8,760

Women's singles

Winner: \$524,900
Runner-up: \$262,400
Semifinalists: \$124,800
Quarterfinalists: \$64,320
Round of 16 losers: \$33,856
Round of 32 losers: \$18,288
Round of 64 losers: \$11,088
First round losers: \$6,800

Brazil, Argentina in soccer final

DOHA (Agencies) — Brazil grabbed a dramatic injury time winner to defeat Portugal 1-0 in the semifinal of the World Youth Championship here Tuesday. Half-time score was 0-0.

In the other semifinal, Argentina eliminated Spain 3-0 with goals from Biagini (22), Coyote (54) and Chaparro 81.

Sao Paulo striker Caio

scored the winner Brazil in the fourth minute of time added on by referee Pascual Rebolloso of Mexico.

But the match ended in controversy as Portugal had two players sent off.

At the final whistle, Rebolloso needed a police escort from the pitch as he was surrounded by angry Portuguese players upset by the dismissals and the length of injury time.

However, Brazil deserved its victory, and will now meet Argentina in the final Friday. The Brazilians are seeking their fourth World Youth

Championship title.

Portugal only created one opening in the entire game, in the second half when Nuno Ribeiro had a header saved by Fabio.

Apart from that, the game was dominated by Brazil. Leonardo hit the post with a 27th minute free-kick while Portuguese goalkeeper Joaquim Quim pulled off fine saves to deny Ze Elias, Glaucio and Marcelo.

Brazil also had a goal disallowed in the opening minute of the second half when Luizao's shot was ruled out for offside.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9882 ♠K103 ♣KJ10 ♠AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—If you think that three spades is simply a correction, indicating a dislike for no trump, take another look at your bidding partner. Although there is a known eight-card fit in the major, we would opt for three no trump because half our strength is in the unbid suits.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ7632 ♠AJ93 ♠85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's response has done nothing to improve your hand—if anything, prospects are bleaker now. We feel that a jump to three hearts adequately expresses the value of this holding. We don't think there's a game, unless partner bids it.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠85 ♠AQ7632 ♠AJ93 ♠Void
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Almost the same hand as before, except that your black-suit holdings have been reversed. But now you can expect partner to cover

a loser or two, so we think the holding is worth a jump to four hearts.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♠K5 ♠AJ106 ♠KQJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠
?
What action do you take?
A.—Even though partner has next to nothing, the fact that almost all your high cards are concentrated in the long suits gives you great playing strength. That is sufficient reason to show your second suit. Bid two clubs.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ43 ♠7 ♠AK85 ♠AK
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
A.—If you use a cue-bid of the enemy suit as a two-suited takeout, by all means bid two hearts. If not, and even though we have consistently warned against making a takeout double on a two-suiter, we would double now. This hand is simply too strong for an overall.

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Barkely seeks title before Suns set

PHOENIX (AFP) — Nothing less than a National Basketball Association championship can satisfy Charles Barkley, who finds time running out on his bid to prove he belongs among the league's greatest players.

"If we don't win the championship, it will be a very disappointing season," said Barkley, whose Phoenix Suns open their best-of-five-round series against Portland here on Friday.

Barkley has struggled through disappointment in recent years, other than a golden moment at Barcelona in 1992 with the U.S. Olympic "Dream Team."

Last season, the Suns lost in the league quarter-finals after pushing eventual champion Houston to the maximum seven games. In 1993, Phoenix fell to Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls in the NBA finals.

The Suns have pumped money and commitment into building a winner this season, with Wayne Tisdale and Danny Manning signing one-year deals for lesser salaries in hopes of pooling their talent and taking a title.

"We have to win it now, three-point sharpshooters Dan Majerle said. "We're sick of being close. We want this thing. This is our chase and everybody knows it."

Barkley pushed off thoughts of retirement due to back pain and has had a strong season, averaging 27 points and helping the Suns to a 59-23 record and the Pacific Division title.

The Suns have averaged 116.6 points a game, second best in the league, despite losing Manning in February to a torn knee ligament. Where the Suns have suffered is defense, allowing 101 points a game, second-most in the league.

"We have so much talent we can get by on that alone most nights," Barkley said. "But if we want to win the championship, we have to play well together and play defence. With us, it always comes down to defence."

The injury-hampered Suns have become healthy for the playoffs. A post-season key will be Kevin Johnson, who missed 35 games with injuries.

Final top ten NBA regular season statistical leaders:

	Scoring				
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
O'Neal, Or.	79	930	455	2315	29.3
Olajuwon, Hou.	72	798	486	2085	27.8
Robinson, S.A.	81	788	656	2238	27.6
Malone, Utah	82	830	516	2187	26.7
Mathura, Dall.	80	683	447	1924	24.1
Ewing, N.Y.	79	730	428	1886	23.9
Barkley, Phoe.	68	554	379	1561	22.8
Richmond, Sac.	82	668	375	1867	22.8
Rice, Min.	82	667	312	1831	22.3
Robinson, Mil.	80	636	397	1755	21.9

Rebounding

	G	Off	Def	Tot	AVG
Roman, S.A.	49	274	540	823	16.8
Mutombo, Den.	82	319	710	1029	12.5
O'Neal, Or.	79	328	573	901	11.4
Ewing, N.Y.	79	157	710	867	11.0
Hill, Cleve.	70	269	496	765	10.9
Kemp, Sea.	82	318	375	693	10.9
Robinson, S.A.	81	234	643	877	10.8
Olajuwon, Hou.	72	172	603	775	10.8
Malone, Utah	82	156	715	871	10.6
Jones, Dall.	80	329	515	844	10.6

Assists

	G	No	AVG
Stockton, Utah	82	1011	12.3
Anderson, N.J.	72	680	9.4
Hardaway, G.S.	62	578	9.3
Strickland, Port.	64	562	8.8
Bogues, Char.	78	675	8.7
Van Exel, L.A.	80	660	8.3
Johnson, S.A.	82	670	8.2
Richardson, LAC	80	632	7.9
Kidd, Dall.	80	616	7.7
	79	607	7.7

Team Offense

	G	Pts	AVG
Orlando	82	9091	110.9
Phoenix	82	9073	110.6
Seattle	82	9055	110.4
San Antonio	82	8742	106.6
Utah	82	8726	106.4
Golden St.	82	8667	105.7
L.A. Lakers	82	8616	105.1
Houston	82	8491	103.5
Dallas	82	8462	103.2
Portland	82	8451	103.1

Team Defence

	G	Pts	AVG
Cleveland	82	7366	89.8
New York	82	7799	95.1
Atlanta	82	7816	95.3
Indiana	82	7833	95.5
Chicago	82	7929	96.7
Charlotte	82	7980	97.3
Utah	82	8071	98.4
Sacramento	82	8138	99.2
Portland	82	8138	99.2

Major League Baseball is back

MIAMI (R) — Eight months after the longest strike in professional sports history killed last season, Major League Baseball returned on Tuesday.

There were replacement umpires, but finally in the Florida night there were big-league players and homers, doubles, some strong pitching and even a ninth-inning rally by the home team that fell just a bit short, as the Los Angeles Dodgers held on to defeat the Miami Marlins 8-7.

Baseball owners and players still have not reached a

collective bargaining agreement and the season is not guaranteed to be free of another strike.

But the night belonged to balls and bats and green grass and the 42,125 fans who turned out to see the first game since August 12.

Raul Mondesi hit a pair of two-run homers and doubled and Ramon Martinez pitched six strong innings for the Dodgers, whose effusive manager, Tommy Lasorda was in mid-season form.

"He's a five-tools guy, he can do it all," Lasorda said of

Mondesi. "This guy could lead the league in hits. He could be the MVP in the near future. Lasorda gushed after just one game."

And Mondesi wasn't far behind Lasorda.

"I love Manny Mota," said Mondesi, referring to the Dodgers' hitting instructor. "He's worked with me for four years. He has instructed me to always go to right fields, hit the ball hard and something good will happen."

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Jordan River Designs holds its annual spring exhibition ARTS AND THREADS. Introducing new designs by contemporary local artists, in a traditional setting with live Arabic entertainment. 1 - 13 May 1995, 10:00am-9:00pm. Located at Jabel Amman, 1st Circle. Tel 613081, 613082

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabli Al Mashkiel Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
Jeff Bridges & Tommy Lee Jones in Blown Away Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 10:30		Kim Basinger, Julia Roberts, Sophia Loren PRET - A - PORTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" Baby's Day Out Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Bad Girls Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 11		Musa Hijazin "Sum's" In the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawagja daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Hala Al Aghe in the children's play ★★ Sa'di's Return ★★	COMING SOON The Comedy Show CABARET	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays.

Sports

Markely seeks title before Suns

SIX (AP) — No one has won a National Basketball Association championship in 15 years, but a player who has won a title in every other sport is looking to add basketball to his list of accomplishments. Charles Barkley, who has won titles in baseball, football, and basketball, is looking to win a title in basketball before the Phoenix Suns.

"We have to win this three-point shot," Barkley said. "It's the only thing that's changed in this game. This is the only thing that's changed in this game. This is the only thing that's changed in this game."

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Top ten NBA regular season statistical leaders

Player	Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Field %	Free %	Minutes
Michael Jordan	Chicago Bulls	31.5	12.0	5.5	2.8	2.3	48.1	83.3	38.3
Scottie Pippen	Chicago Bulls	23.7	10.4	6.7	1.5	1.6	46.5	80.0	33.4
Dennis Rodman	Detroit Pistons	20.1	25.5	2.5	1.2	2.3	50.0	78.6	33.1
Kevin Garnett	Minnesota Timberwolves	20.0	15.6	3.6	1.5	1.5	47.6	78.6	33.1
Grant Hill	Pistons	19.0	11.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1
Tim Duncan	San Antonio Spurs	18.0	10.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1
Alvin Robertson	Pacers	17.0	9.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1
Scottie Pippen	Bulls	16.0	8.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1
Grant Hill	Pistons	15.0	7.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1
Tim Duncan	Spurs	14.0	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	47.6	78.6	33.1

Baseball is back

Baseball is back in Jordan. The Jordanian Baseball Association has announced that it will be holding a tournament in Amman. The tournament will be held in Amman and will feature teams from Jordan and other countries in the region.

San Marino: The race that killed Senna

MONACO, Italy (AP) — The memory of Ayrton Senna is still fresh in the minds of Formula One drivers and fans alike. Senna's death in the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix, the race that took his life here a year ago, is still a topic of discussion.

Senna, Brazil's triple world champion, crashed into a concrete wall after veering off the Tamborello bend at 300km/h in his Williams-Renault.

The cause of Senna's fatal accident, which came 24 hours after that suffered by Austria's Roland Ratzenberger, remains a mystery to this day, although speculation has focused on a ruptured steering column.

Arguably the greatest racing driver of all time, Senna's absence from the world championship has been felt throughout the 1995 season — a feeling which can only be imagined at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit.

Michael Schumacher returns as the championship leader, but is bound to replay the images he saw at 2.18pm on Sunday May 1, 1994.

The German's Benetton car had been chasing the Williams as it headed towards the Tamborello bend, and Schumacher was a spectator as the tragedy unfolded before him.

Among its many effects on the world of motorsport, the crash triggered a wave of safety improvements to Formula One cars and circuits, not least here at Imola, and in particular at Tamborello.

Indeed, the various changes will make Sunday's race all the more unpredictable, although the bookies' favourite car has to be a Williams Renault.

Damon Hill's convincing victory in Argentina demonstrated the advance his car has over Schumacher's Benetton, although both cars use the same Renault V10 engine.

Hill had also been leading in Brazil before being caught out by a spin, while teammate David Coulthard took second place behind Schumacher.

There is no shortage of motivation though for the other challengers — Ferrari, McLaren-Mercedes and Jordan-Peugeot.

Ferrari know that a podium finish before their home fans is well within reach following Jean Alesi's stirring second place in Buenos Aires, and Gerhard Berger's distant third in San Paulo.

At Imola, they will arrive fully armed with a new-found confidence, plus a revised V12 engine capable of an extra 1,000 revs-per-minute.

And clearly, if they are to win a race in 1995, as they finally did last season, Ferrari fans would dearly love it be won here.

Victory for Berger would also be another salvo in the recently declared war of words with Schumacher.

The Austrian was upset at the decision to re-instate Schumacher and Coulthard at the Brazilian Grand Prix, after their disqualification for fuel irregularities had temporarily propelled Berger from third to first place.

"Berger should concentrate on racing instead of thinking about how he can criticise me," said the German. "If Berger showed the talent he shows doing his own PR he would have won many more races."

"I never understood how somebody could celebrate a victory like that, one lap down and winning after someone else has been disqualified."

Berger countered: "I was declared the winner by the FIA stewards, so I had every reason to open the champagne."

And referring to last year's race here, which Schumacher won, he added: "I cannot understand how someone can celebrate a victory by jumping around when one of our colleagues has died."

McLaren will meanwhile want to make an impact with their non-secret weapon, unveiled for the first time this season, Nigel Mansell. The Englishman's hips, which proved too big for the original car, should now be a snug fit in the new one.

Finnish teammate Mike Hakkinen made a bright start to the season — finishing fourth in Brazil — but failed to even negotiate the first corner in Argentina.

Sampras named player of the year

MONACO (Agencies) — American Pete Sampras, who finished 1994 as world number one, was named player of the year for the second time here at the ATP Tour Awards Gala.

Sampras won 10 tournaments in 1994, including two grand slam events — the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

"It means a lot to me and I'll do everything I can to finish this year at number one," said Sampras, who lost his top spot to compatriot Andre Agassi after opting out of the Japan Open earlier this month to play on clay in Barcelona.

"I know it will be tough because it's Andre's goal too," he said.

Sampras had held the number one ranking since September 1993 and was ATP player of the year in that year.

Dutch pair Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, who won eight titles, took the doubles team of the year award and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, currently ranked fourth in the world, was voted most improved player.

Spain's Alberto Costa was named best newcomer after taking a semi-finals berth in three tour events.

The 29-year-old Swede, 17th on the computer, fell 6-3, 6-1, to Fabrice Santoro of France, the world number 45, who has never taken a set off of Edberg in two 1994 meetings.

It was all over in 63 minutes, with an error prone Edberg far from sharp with his serve-and-volley game and making 36 unforced errors to just a handful for the Frenchman with nothing to lose.

The double Wimbledon champion put in his worst career performance at the Monte Carlo Country Club, where he was competing for the seventh time since 1986.

The three-time semi-finalist has spent the last three weeks since leading holders Sweden into the Davis Cup semi-finals, resting and training.

The time away was evidently not the best thing for his game.

"I've been working quite hard but everybody knows there's a difference practising and playing a match," he said. "I had just an awful day. Everything went wrong for me."

He explained he programmed time off to recharge his batteries. "I played a lot at the beginning of the year, then I got sick before Stuttgart in February."

"I played a lot in the States and then the Davis Cup. I needed a rest and you have to start somewhere. I didn't have any rhythm and once you do that on clay, it isn't easy."

Edberg now has time on his hands and must figure out how to get the tournament time that he needs with the French Open starting on May 29.

For the first time in years, the Swede will play the Italian Open in Rome in three weeks and is debating whether to seek wildcards for upcoming events including the BMW Open in Munich next week and possibly Hamburg from May 8.

Joining Edberg as an upset victim was 11th seed and defending champion Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine.

The 20-year-old from Kiev claimed illness had been bothering him for several days. He even diagnosed "high blood pressure," and said he thought about not even taking to the court against Australian Richard Fromberg, who won through to the second round 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Medvedev has had mixed fortunes on his favourite clay courts this spring — making the quarter-finals at Estoril earlier this month but losing his first match in Barcelona.



Pete Sampras

1995 JSF Shield kicks off today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Premier League soccer teams begin the first of the season's official competitions when the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield kicks off Thursday.

For the first time, the 12 participating teams have been divided into three groups and will play a knockout competition in the first round. Only the top team in each group will qualify for the final round.

Timeholders Al Hussein play Al Ahli on the opening day at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Group 1 also includes newcomers Sahab and the recently concluded Amman Soccer Championship surprise winners Al Jazireh.

1994 Premier League champions Al Wihdat also play the first of their matches against Al Qadisiyah at Amman's Petra Stadium Thursday. Their Group 2 includes Al Baqa and Kufroum.

Meanwhile in Group 3 Al Faisali and Al Ramtha will clash on Sunday, while newcomers Al Jalil and Russeifa meet Friday.

The early clash of top teams like Al Faisali and Al Ramtha will mean that there will undoubtedly be some surprise finalists in the second round which begins May 12.

The inconsistent form which characterised most of the country's teams in last week's Amman Championship will make it difficult to determine the winner of the 15th JSF Shield.

JSF Shield Record

Year	Winner
1981	Jazireh
1982	Wihdat
1983	Wihdat
1984	Amman
1985	Amman
1986	Jazireh
1987	Faisali
1988	Wihdat
1989	Ramtha
1990	Ramtha
1991	Faisali
1992	Faisali
1993	Ramtha
1994	Husseini

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Under the patronage of H.M. Queen Noor and in cooperation with the Cultural Foundation 3,14, Bergen, Norway, the Royal Norwegian Embassy proudly presents "ENCOUNTERS", a Norwegian Cultural Week to take place in Jordan May 2-7, 1995.

Program

May 2nd, 8:00 p.m.	Concert by Norwegian folk musicians, Reidun Horvei & Einar Moolnes and the Jordanian oud player, Sakher Hattar At: Darat Al-Funun, Amman Tickets sold at the National Music Conservatory. Tel.: 687620 Official opening of an exhibition of Norwegian contemporary art (Open till May 25th). At: Jordan National Gallery of Fine arts.
May 3rd, 6:00 p.m.	Official opening of an exhibition of rugs designed by Norwegian textile designers and woven by the Bani Hamida weavers. At: Bani Hamida House. And of an exhibition of embroideries and jewellery on national costumes from Norway and Jordan; Norwegian folk music performance. At: Jordan River Designs showroom
May 4th, 5:00 p.m.	Norwegian evening at Romero Restaurant. Tickets sold at Romero. Tel: 644227 Bus excursion to Umm-Qais (Gedara) Departure 3:30 p.m. Open air concert on the Roman Amphitheatre by the Norwegian opera singer, Carl Robert Henie and pianist Peter Anthon Naess followed by Norwegian buffet dinner. Tickets sold at Romero. Tel: 644227 Norwegian gourmet dinner-dance at Kan Zaman. Norwegian specialties prepared by Norwegian chefs. Folk music concert by Carl Robert Henie.
May 5th	Tickets sold at Royal Norwegian Embassy 644932, Icelandic Consulate 698851, Danish Consulate 603703, Swedish Embassy 669177. For further details please call 644932/3/4
May 6th 8:00 p.m.	Norad (Dept. of Development Cooperation) Thun Management Alcatel Kabel Norge Austrian Airlines

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Aqaba airport expansion plan gets on 'fast track'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), a government arm, on Wednesday announced it was offering a \$500,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Aqaba airport in the next two years to cater for a higher number of passengers.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of a three-day symposium on Jordan Rift Valley development attended by senior officials and business executives from the U.S., Israel and Jordan.

"The development of the Aqaba-Eilat airport corridor has emerged as the highest transportation priority to meet the anticipated increase in demand caused by additional tourism," said the final communiqué of the symposium. "Therefore, immediate steps should be taken to carry out the necessary feasibility assessments and prepare the project for investment."

J. Grandmaison, director of TDA, said separately that his organisation was granting the \$500,000 aid for the preliminary study.

"Both Israel and Jordan will benefit from the increased tourism and other economic benefits that the enhancement of the airport and its joint use will bring," said Mr. Grandmaison, the

key organiser of the symposium under a mandate from President Bill Clinton.

"This grant also demonstrates that the TDA is open for business in the Middle East, and we will actively pursue additional opportunities in support of President Bill Clinton's commitment to the peace process."

Expanding the Aqaba airport to higher international standards and modernising and increasing facilities available to passengers have been a key theme from the very outset of Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations that started in mid-1994.

But it was the first time that the issue was discussed in detail when participants in the Amman symposium heard international business executives with immense experience in aviation and ground services presented their viewpoints.

While no definite figures have been established, it is estimated that the project would entail up to \$200 million in fresh investments. Given the drain on the public resources of Jordan, private sector investment will have to be sought, particularly in view of the added emphasis that the Amman symposium brought to free market economy and liberalisation.

One of the ideas floated was a "build, own and operate" scheme under which the

entire investment for the project will come from external sources and the local government will receive a sum to be negotiated.

Raytheon Engineers and Constructors, a U.S. multinational, presented a paper to the symposium outlining its experience in working on a similar project in Bangalore, India.

Mr. Grandmaison said there was no predetermined concept for the project.

He said the TDA had identified a "fast-track" approach to the Aqaba project under which a selection process will begin next week for a U.S. contractor to conduct the study and one will be identified in two months.

The study will be presented to the Amman Economic Summit in October.

Joint use of the Aqaba airport, which now caters mainly to internal flights to Amman and a few flights to Egypt in addition to tourist charters, was underlined by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the opening session of the symposium.

Noting that Israel's Eilat airport on the Red Sea coast a few kilometres from Aqaba was not enough to meet the needs of tourists coming to Israel, Mr. Peres said: "Instead of having a near miss over Aqaba let us not miss the opportunity" for cooperation.



NORTHERN BADIA: His Royal Highness northern badia region (see page one) (Petra Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits the photo)

Jordan and Tunisia seek to boost economic cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hamid Qarawi on Wednesday urged the private sectors and businessmen of Jordan and Tunisia to play a leading role in bolstering Tunisian-Jordanian relations and to participate in joint ventures.

Speaking on the second day of a meeting here of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee, Dr. Qarawi said economic cooperation between the two countries was still below the desired level and does not reflect the actual potential. Economic reform and

democracy create the climate to promote economic activities and open new avenues for cooperation, he said.

The joint committee meeting, he said, offers the two sides a unique opportunity to evaluate their past cooperation and explore new avenues for relations and a forum for discussing topics of common concern.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who heads the Jordanian side to the meeting, said the committee was determined to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia in political, economic, cultural information,

tourism trade and scientific fields.

The two prime ministers voiced their countries' commitments to back the Middle East peace process.

The two reviewed areas of mutual cooperation and a report by a joint committee that prepared for the meeting.

The two prime ministers are expected to sign a protocol on Thursday covering maritime transport, tourism and agriculture as well as trade and economic cooperation.

Hizbollah expects Israeli attack

SIDON (Agencies) — Hizbollah guerrillas braced Wednesday for possible retaliation for a suicide car bombing that wounded at least 11 Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon the day before.

The command of Hizbollah said its guerrillas have been put on maximum alert along an 80-kilometre front line abutting an Israeli-occupied border enclave. Gunners were poised to rocket northern Israel should Lebanese civilians come under attack.

"All our Mujahedeen are braced to rocket the enemy's northern settlements if our civilian population was subjected to vengeful attacks in the south," said a Hizbollah communiqué released in this southern port city.

The group's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, ordered the alert shortly after Tuesday's bombing in which nearly 20 Lebanese civilians and one pro-Israeli militiaman, also were wounded.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack, mounted by a lone bomber who rammed a car rigged with 460 kilograms of explosives into an army convoy outside the Israeli "civil administration" compound.

The bomber perished in the afternoon explosion in Bint Jbeil, a town less than ten kilometres from the Israeli border.

The blast wrecked the sprawling compound used by Israeli officers to handle the day-to-day affairs of the 200,000 inhabitants of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls a "security zone."

A senior Israeli official said the bombing failed to kill Israeli soldiers because of strict security regulations. Two Israeli soldiers were moderately wounded and nine lightly in the attack, the army said.

"Safety regulations for suicide attacks were followed by the soldiers which explained why the operation did not kill any one," said Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon.

According to Israeli Radio the regulations include:

— A distance of 50 metres between military vehicles in convoys;

— All oncoming local Lebanese traffic must halt to let convoys pass, and following traffic must not overtake;

— All Lebanese vehicles must carry at least one passenger as well as a driver.

Soldiers were under orders to open fire on drivers who do not obey the instructions above.

"If we follow the rules and the bombings fail, Hizbollah will stop planning suicide attacks," Mr. Lubrani said.

Ex-landowners lose legal battle in claim on U.S. base

TOKYO (AP) — An 18-year-long legal battle launched by the former owners of land made into a U.S. Air Base ended Tuesday as Japan's Supreme Court rejected their claim to the 2,000-hectare (4,940-acre) tract of land. A total of 125 former landowners sought in the suit the Japanese government's recognition of their ownership of the land and payment of 5 billion yen (\$60 million) in back rent. Japan's wartime Imperial Army built a military airfield on the land in 1944. The U.S. Air Force has used the land as Kadena Air Base under a mutual defence pact ever since.

Japan's defeat in World War II, the plaintiffs argued that they were forced to relinquish the land to the Imperial Army without due compensation. In the final ruling, the nation's highest court upheld lower courts' ruling that it had to be a transaction under a legal contract. The courts, including the Naha District Court and the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, based their judgment on similar base-construction cases during the war in the nearby island of Ishigaki and other islands in western Japan. During the trial, neither the former landowners nor the Japanese government could fully document their case because the papers were burned during the war.

One in two Greeks extend Easter holiday

ATHENS (AP) — One in two Athenians Tuesday apparently decided to extend the four-day Easter weekend by another seven days to include the Labour Day holiday. Traffic police said less than half of the nearly 500,000 cars that left the capital to celebrate Orthodox Christian Easter had returned. Nearly half the city's population of four million leaves the capital every year to celebrate Easter Sunday in the countryside. According to media reports, more than one third of the civil servants working in the central government took extended leaves until the three-day May 1 Labour Day holiday. Employees taking four days during their annual leave during the middle of this week wind up with an 11-day vacation. Traffic on the capital's normally clogged streets was sparse and Athens television and radio stations reported that many public services were nearly empty. Some, including the Finance Ministry, were reported operating with just over 50 per cent of their employees.

Family feud over name ends in death

SHANGHAI (AFP) — A peasant was beaten to death following the christening of his son in a village in northern Shandong province where two feuding families live, a newspaper reported. The Wenhu Daily reported that Liu Xiyuan, from Liu Li village where two families live, was celebrating the first full moon after his son's birth with a dinner for guests during which he announced the name of the child. The full moon or the completion of the first month is a very important occasion in the life of a Chinese and is celebrated with a dinner party and guests are required to bring gifts for the newborn who is presented to the public for the first time.

Former world high jump champion jailed

HONG KONG (AP) — A former Chinese athlete who set a world high jump record in 1970 has been sentenced to eight years in prison for receiving bribes, a Chinese news agency said Tuesday. Zhiguo, 53, was convicted of receiving 57,000 yuan (\$6,800) in bribes from a leather company when he was deputy chief of the Fujian provincial sports committee in 1991, the official China News Service said. He was sentenced by a court in Fuzhou in the south-east coastal province of Fujian, added. He held the high jump world record of 2.29 metres (7 feet, 6 1/2 inches) for 17 years, the report said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton and Fahd discuss ties

RIYADH (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and King Fahd discussed bilateral ties by telephone after U.S. criticisms that Riyadh had foiled a U.S. plan to arrest a suspected Lebanese terrorist. The official agency SPA said Wednesday that Mr. Clinton called King Fahd late Tuesday. The king had expressed his sorrow at last week's Oklahoma bombing that killed at least 93 people. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier in the week he had been disappointed by Riyadh's refusal to let a plane land in the kingdom on April 7 where U.S. intelligence agents were waiting to arrest a passenger suspected of being behind several attacks. But he had stressed the failed plan would not affect the two countries' defence ties, as Saudi Arabia is a key ally of the United States in the Gulf region. The two leaders' conversation also followed criticism by Washington that Riyadh had allowed a Libyan plane carrying pilgrims to land even though it had taken off from Tripoli in violation of a U.N. air embargo.

Editor of Israel's leading newspaper freed

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Police released Wednesday the editor of Israel's biggest-selling newspaper after interrogating him for 48 hours in a telephone-tapping scandal. However, Moshe Vardi of the Yediot Aharonot, who is suspected of bugging telephones at the rival Maariv newspaper, had to surrender his passport and agree to remain available to answer any further questions, police said. Maariv's editor and publisher Ofer Nimrodi was remanded in custody for a week last Sunday on suspicion of organising the tapping of telephones at the Yediot as well as those of journalists at his own paper. Police moved in after a private investigator on Maariv's payroll, who was awaiting trial on 39 charges of phone tapping, turned state witness. He is one of six telephone tappers under arrest. Inquiries into widespread bugging in the media have been underway for a year as Maariv and Yediot fought a no-holds barred tabloid circulation war.

U.S. court rejects law on guns near schools

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Supreme Court struck down a federal law Wednesday that bars gun possession near schools, ruling that Congress overstepped its authority in enacting it. The court ruled 5-4 in a Texas case, saying the 1990 Gun-Free School Zones Act banning guns within 330 metres of schools was outside congressional authority to regulate interstate commerce. The law "is a criminal statute that by its terms has nothing to do with 'commerce' or any sort of economic enterprise, however broadly one might define those terms," Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote for the court. President Bill Clinton's administration had argued that firearms possession near schools may result in violent crime, which in turn harms the national economy by making it difficult for schools to function.

Israelis protest visit by French cardinal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Forty Israelis demonstrated Wednesday in Tel Aviv against French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Jew who converted to Catholicism. Rabbi Chaim Druckman led the group of religious nationalists waving Israeli flags outside Tel Aviv University where Mr. Lustiger attended a symposium on the "Silence of God" during the World War II genocide. "It is disgraceful for the cardinal to be in Israel when we are commemorating the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis," said Mr. Druckman, a former far-right deputy who lives in the barbed wire West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba. "What about the silence of Christianity during the Shoah," read one banner carried by demonstrators.

Somali gunmen raid news offices

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Six to 10 gunmen raided the offices of four news organisations in Mogadishu Tuesday, carrying off computers, walkie-talkies, video sets, a generator, a camera and cash. They ordered the occupants of the offices used by the local correspondents of AFP, the BBC, AP and DPA, to lie on the floor, then went through their pockets. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. Faction leaders said they would try to track down the culprits.

Germany blames Kurds for property attacks

BONN (R) — German authorities blamed Kurdish extremists on Wednesday for a spate of firebomb attacks on Turkish properties this year but said some were the work of radical left-wing Turkish groups. Security officials of 148 politically motivated attacks on travel agencies, banks and shops since Feb. 17, Bavaria's interior ministry said. The arrest of two Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) supporters after one attack and the seizure in German cities of PKK propaganda material urging boycotts of Turkish travel agencies firmly established a link to the PKK, it added.

Deutch pledges to revive CIA

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's choice to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) vowed Wednesday to revive the spy agency by appointing fresh faces to its top posts.

John Deutch, the deputy secretary of defence, also told a Senate confirmation hearing that he would move quickly to reform the CIA, whose prestige has reached basement-low levels over the Aldrich Ames spy scandal.

"I believe that it is time for a new generation of leaders and managers at the CIA and in the intelligence community," Mr. Deutch told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"I believe that major changes are needed, and I would anticipate taking significant action immediately upon confirmation," he said.

Mr. Deutch, 56, cited among his priorities consolidating various intelligence offices that collect, analyse and distribute satellite photography, a key component of U.S. espionage activities.

If confirmed, Mr. Deutch, known as one of the administration's most influential voices on foreign and defence policy, would replace James Woolsey, who quit in early January following sharp criticism of his handling of the Ames affair.

Congress charged that Mr. Woolsey should have reprimanded and sacked CIA managers for the spy fiasco in which Aldrich Ames, a lacklustre employee, was allowed to go undetected in selling secrets to Moscow for almost 10 years.

Senator Arlen Specter, chairman of the committee and a Republican from Pennsylvania, praised Mr. Deutch's qualifications and suggested there would be no problem in confirming his appointment.

"The CIA needs somebody who is strong at the top," he said, adding that he believed Mr. Deutch would "do what is necessary to put the agency on its feet."

Mr. Deutch, who was Mr. Clinton's first choice to head the embattled CIA, was nominated March 11, one day after the first nominee, retired Air Force General Michael Carns, unexpectedly withdrew his candidacy.

Mr. Carns admitted to errors in helping a Philippine worker obtain a U.S. visa by falsely stating on the application that the man would be in his employment.

Iraq wants nothing less than total lifting of oil embargo

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Wednesday said it would accept nothing less than the complete lifting of U.N. sanctions after rejecting a deal to sell limited quantities in exchange for food and medicine.

The stand was agreed at a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party leadership, chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

"Iraq accepts nothing less than the implementation by the U.N. Security Council of paragraph 22 of Resolution 687," an Iraqi spokesman said.

This paragraph provides for the lifting of the oil embargo once the United Nations are convinced that Iraq's mass destruction potential was dismantled.

Baghdad says this condition has been fulfilled already. But the U.N. Special Commission that has been supervising Iraq's disarmament since the 1991 Gulf war that freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation rejects the Iraqi assertion.

Council of Europe votes to oust Turkey

STRASBOURG (Agencies) — The parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe recommended Wednesday that Turkey be suspended from the body and gave Ankara two months to improve its human rights record.

In a motion, the assembly said the council's executive committee should consider suspending Turkey unless the panel could certify in two months' time that Turkey had improved its human rights record, especially with regard to its Kurdish minority.

Germany said meanwhile Turkey had taken a step in the right direction by agreeing to pull most of its troops out of northern Iraq, but should now send home the rest.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said he was happy Turkey had heeded its allies' calls and withdrawn more than 20,000 troops, the bulk of a force which crossed the border on March 20 to attack bases of Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas.

"Turkey on the right path but that's not enough," Mr. Kinkel, an outspoken opponent of the action, said in a statement.

Now the remaining 10,000 soldiers must be withdrawn without delay.

Turkey's relations with its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies also deteriorated further over the Kurdish issue with Ankara announcing its would stop all new military purchases from the Netherlands.

"We have decided to stop all new military procure-

ments from the Netherlands and Dutch firms will not be able to participate in Turkey's military tenders," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman told a news briefing.

The ban was in response to the Dutch government allowing a Kurdish parliament-in-exile to be set up in the Hague and would last as long as it tolerated the exiled body, he said.

The Dutch government says its law does not prohibit exiled Kurds from meeting as long as their activities are not linked to terrorism. Mr. Ataman called this "unacceptable."

Foreign aid workers and Iraqi Kurds said Turkey's military operation in northern Iraq has backfired failing to wipe out the PKK guerrillas and even boosting their support among locals.

The whole Turkish operation was a failure. The troops only looted the Kurdish villages. But the PKK still remain in the area and will get even stronger," Abdul Aziz Tahib, the governor of the Dohuk, told AFP.

His words were echoed by Kurdish villagers and foreign aid workers.

Villagers from Derkare, about 10 kilometres east of Zakho, said about 2,000 PKK rebels were still in the area.

"When the Turkish troops entered, the PKK went further east. When the Turks left, the PKK returned the same day," said Sabiri Arab, an official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

No immediate move in Paris talks on PNA aid

PARIS (AFP) — International donors to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) began talks here Wednesday aimed at unblocking the flow of aid to the region, but Palestinian sources said prospects for progress were not immediately good.

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said an initial bilateral session between Palestinian and U.S. negotiators had not provided what the Palestinians had hoped for.

"The signs we got from the U.S. delegation do not augur well," he told AFP. The meeting was "not up to what we hoped."

One Palestinian source said: "We sometimes get the impression that the Americans are pushing us to beg for money which was promised to us, and which is not being given."

They were speaking as delegations from the European Union, the United States, Russia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the World Bank gathered in the French capital for talks which will end Friday.

Wednesday and Thursday were to be taken up with bilateral discussions, culminating in a plenary session Friday.

Problems have arisen since the September 1993 signing of the declaration of principles, when donors pledged \$2.2 billion for the Palestinians over five years.

But Palestinians say only \$215 million has been delivered out of a total \$720 million promised for 1994.

Payments have been held up amid concern among some donor countries over the authority's budget deficit, estimated at \$132 million.

Palestinian sources indicated Wednesday that the Americans had proposed unblocking \$60 million over coming months, while the PNA wants the full budget deficit figure to be paid out immediately.

One Palestinian official nevertheless said some kind of accord may well be hammered out over the next few days in Paris.

Dr. Shaath said Wednesday an agreement was needed in order to avoid constant crises in the authority's economy.

"We don't want a new crisis every two months. We are ready to fulfil our commitments. The United States and Israel must do the same," he said.

The U.S. State Department coordinator for Middle East affairs, Dennis Ross, is heading the U.S. delegation in Paris, while Israeli foreign ministry director general Uri Savir will lead the Israeli team, accompanied by his finance ministry counterpart David Brodet.

Earlier in the week Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Chek voiced optimism that the Paris talks could achieve a breakthrough in resolving the obstacles to international aid.

But Dr. Shaath said international donors must also begin "implementing the projects they have promised in the self-rule areas" of West Bank and Gaza Strip.